

# CDXC Newsletter

CHILTERN DX CLUB  
The UK DX Foundation

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September 1995

CDXC - The UK DX Foundation

Issue 97

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**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: OCTOBER 7th (LATE NEWS OCTOBER 21st)**

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## CHILTERN DX CLUB - The UK DX Foundation - Aims and Objectives

**From the Constitution:** *"The aim of the Club will be to promote excellence in HF operating, particularly DXing, through mutual assistance and by encouraging support of DXpeditions, the issue of achievement awards, or whatever other means is deemed to be appropriate"*

**From the Prospectus:** *"CDXC caters for amateurs with an interest in competitive activity on the HF bands (DXing, contesting, award chasing, etc.)"*

**Membership:** Membership of CDXC is open to any amateur or SWL who has 100 DXCC countries confirmed on the HF bands. New members must be proposed by at least two club members.

**Subscriptions:** The annual subscription is currently set at £12.00 for UK members, and £17.00 for overseas members. The subscription for new members joining between 1st January and 30th June is 50% of the annual subscription. Subscriptions become due on July 1st in each year, and should be sent to the Treasurer (address above).

**Newsletter:** This newsletter is published six times per year. Articles for publication should be sent to the Newsletter Editor (address above) by the published deadline. *Please note that opinions expressed in the Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor or of the Committee.*

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## EDITORIAL

**Alan Jubb, G3PMR**

Hello all, and again, a warm welcome to our new members. I'm writing the first part of this in some haste before taking a holiday, as I have to complete the entire Newsletter the day after my return in order to get it out in time for the Convention. I'm looking forward to meeting CDXC members again at the Convention. However, regrettably this year, I shall be unable to be at the Convention DX Dinner on Saturday evening, as I have a long standing unbreakable social commitment on that evening. Fortunately, though, that event is also in Windsor, so I shall still be able to be at the Convention during the day.

As I write this, it's just over two weeks since the IOTA contest, and what a contest it was, too. I shall be interested to see the statistics when they eventually come out, but as a non-participant, just chasing islands, activity seemed higher even than in 1994, and was markedly up on CW. I managed to bag six new ones, all in NA, (as against 15, I think last year), and already have QSLs from three of them. Since my comments in the July Newsletter about below par IOTA QSL returns, I have had a veritable flood of cards coming back, so maybe I should complain about poor QSLing more often!!

Thanks from Mike, G4PFF, to all who have renewed their subscriptions for the 1995/96 CDXC year. To those who have not yet paid, please remember that this will be your last Newsletter unless your subs are paid right away.

CDXC member Phil, VS6CT seems to have been having fun from the Virgin Islands as KP2/VS6CT. In a QSO yesterday (August 12th), Phil had completed 1900+ QSOs, all on 17/20m, and was hoping to exceed 2000 by the time he went QRT on August 13th. Anyone needing a QSL should QSL via



Phil's manager, AA6BB. Phil will be in the UK during late August/early September, and will be attending the RSGB HF Convention, so that will be a chance for an eyeball with him. Phil is one of the few VS6/VR2 stations who is not on the mainland (VS6WO is the other well known island based station). Phil will be moving QTH after returning to Hong Kong on September 20th, but will remain island based.

Looking at G0ORH's *Advance Contest News*, you will see that this time there are three month's worth of contest information instead of the usual two. This is in response to requests from members who feel that more advance warning of contests is needed. In future issues of the Newsletter, we will revert to 2 month's worth of information, but starting the month after the publication date of the Newsletter. Thus, the November Newsletter will contain information for December and January, rather than for November and December, as has been the practice so far.

On the DXCC front, we have seen continued discussion and controversy over the status of Scarborough Reef and Pratas (BS7H and BV9P operations). Martti Lane, OH2BH/VR2BH/AH3D has written a fairly strong piece to DXers on the subject, laying out the facts and background. This has been widely published, so I have not taken space by reproducing it in this issue. Anyone who hasn't seen it may obtain a copy from me by sending a SASE. DXNS reports that on 3rd August, ARRL President Rod Stafford, KB6ZV, released an open letter to all DXCC participants, which explains the relationship between various ARRL committees and changes to the rules, in the light of the DXAC decisions regarding Pratas Island and Scarborough Reef. The rules now allow negative decisions of the DXAC, as well as positive ones, and for an appeal to the full Board failing agreement. The DXAC have been asked to reconsider their decision on

Pratas Island, and the appeal procedure to the Board is being invoked for Scarborough Reef. An ad hoc committee is being set up to review and recommend revisions to the procedures that govern advisory committee procedures, including DXCC. This whole affair has certainly not done the DXCC Program's image any good. Let's hope it can be resolved to everyone's satisfaction before long.

After several months of operating with a dipole, I finally got my A3S back in operation, after sustaining damage in February in a storm. I had great trouble getting the centre piece of tubing for the reflector. The moral of this story is to check you can readily get spares for your antenna before purchasing it! I'd like to thank Waters and Stanton for their outstanding help on getting this part - they eventually had to purchase a complete antenna, and then gave me the require part free of charge! Thanks are also due to the various CDXC members who offered their help and advice, especially GM3BQA.

The ARM/Social event at G3NUG's QTH was a great success. We were blessed with excellent weather for the third year running for the barbecue. The minutes of the ARM can be found later in the Newsletter, and the new Committee is listed on the front of the Newsletter. This was the first ARM that was coupled with a social event - it certainly helped get the business part of the meeting over quickly! There was an excellent turn out, and Neville and Trish put on an first class spread. We are all indebted to them for that. On behalf of all the members, I'd like to thank outgoing Vice Presidents G6LX and G4LJF for their contribution to CDXC.

The Committee is currently seeking an Awards Manager. This is not a Committee position, and therefore does not require attendance at Committee meetings, and therefore the geographic location of the Awards Manager is not important, although it



probably should be a UK based person. If you would be interested in this position, please contact the Secretary, G0HXX. Duties include issuing trophies for CDXC awards - see July Newsletter for details of these, advising the Committee on awards issues, and preparing occasional items on awards for publication in the Newsletter.

The extra special call sign M100G has been aired since late August, and will be on the air in total for 28 days, in association with the Convention, and also in celebration of 100 year's radio since Marconi's early experiments. Many thanks to David, G3OUF, who organised the operating rota during my absence on holiday. I have only had three logs back so far, but if they are anything to go by, the total number of QSOs with M100G will well exceed the 9000+ QSOs last year with GB30IOTA. Talking of Marconi, I visited Italy on holiday, and whilst there spotted on the map the words "*Marconi Mausoleum*" just south of Bologna. This just had to be investigated! We motored down to the village of Sasso Marconi, to find not only Marconi's Mausoleum, but also the *Marconi Foundation* and the Amateur Radio Station IY4FGM. Unfortunately everything was closed, so I could do no more than wander round the outside, and take a few photographs, which was rather frustrating - other members may be more fortunate, although I'm not certain that the Marconi Foundation is open to the public - perhaps one of our Italian members could enlighten us? Whilst driving around the UK or France, one usually doesn't see much obvious sign of amateur radio - in terms of antennas. Driving around Italy, mainly in Tuscany, and en route, almost every village seemed to have an HF tribander! We stopped in one small town, and there was a tribander adjacent to the carpark, and within a 100m walk, I noted two more!

One of the more interesting, and welcome, items in the mountain of mail awaiting me when I returned home from holiday was the CDXC Honor Roll Chaser's Certificate. This is produced by Bren, G4DYO, and really is a fine certificate, well worth having, and thanks Bren,

for producing and supplying it. I would encourage other members who qualify, but who have not yet submitted their score, to do so - the rules are given elsewhere in this Newsletter. I would also encourage those who have already submitted their score, and gained their certificate, to continue to keep their entry to the Honor Roll Chaser's Table up to date - it would be a great shame if the table was seen as just a means of getting another sheepskin.

Many members will know that, although licensed for over thirty years, my interest in HF DXing didn't really start until the late nineteen eighties, when I became QRV again after a break of seventeen years. In the early days, operating with 25watts AM/CW from a Panda Cub TX, and a modest antenna, most of my QSOs were on 160m, mainly within the UK, with some EU/NA, or on 20m CW, mainly Europe/North America. Imagine my surprise then, when browsing through my first log book recently, I found a QSO, in 1963, with VP8GQ in South Orkney (who had responded to my CQ call!!). If I could get this QSO confirmed, it would give me an all-time new country as well as a new IOTA reference confirmed. What chance after thirty two years, though? Not much, I thought! However, nothing ventured, nothing gained, so I put out a plea for help on PacketCluster, and within half an hour had the home call of VP8GQ (G3LET) as well as that of his QSL manager! Many thanks to the many who responded. After trying the QSL Manager first, I finally got confirmation from Peter, G3LET, himself, within a few weeks. Never give up hope!

In the January 1995 Newsletter, there was a lengthy piece on the now imminent Easter Island/Salas y Gómez DXpedition. A member of the DXpedition team is CDXC member Vincent, G0LMX. It's great to see CDXC being represented yet again on a major DXpedition. Good luck Vincent.

My thanks are due once again to all contributors of articles, and also to G0WAZ, G3LZQ, G3XMZ, G4BUO, G4OWT, G3ZAY, DXNS, CQ Magazine and CQ-DL.



## **CHAIRMAN'S CHAT**

### ***Neville Cheadle G3NUG***

Another CDXC year is over, another ARM concluded. As Members will know five of last year's Committee stood for re-election, including myself, and we all received unanimous support at the ARM. This was very encouraging. From my point of view continuity at Committee level is important and we hope we can continue to grow the club during the coming year. My thanks to Ron G6LX and Ian G4LJF for their support last year. Because of business pressures they did not seek re-election.

It was great to have so many Members at the ARM and I was particularly delighted to note a significant number of our newer Members there. Trish and I were very pleased with the turn-out for the Summer Social that followed the ARM. We hope that everyone enjoyed it -- it was great to see so many families and friends. My particular thanks to Sylvia and Tony Taylor from Arizona who were staying with us at the time and to Trish for organising the food. Tony brought his AZ experience to bear at the barbecue where he cooked a mere 55 chicken thighs, 100 sausages and hamburgers -- A great job, Tony -- Well Done!

Some of the correspondence in this month's Newsletter started me thinking in practical terms about the objectives of CDXC. Our objectives are always set out on the front cover of the Newsletter but how do the Committee and I interpret these objectives? I see six main thrusts to our activities:

1. To fund DXpeditions,
2. To encourage and support the younger and newer amateurs,
3. To publish an excellent bi-monthly Newsletter,

4. To create an environment whereby Members can meet each other,
5. To issue achievement awards,
6. To keep the club on a sound financial basis and well administered.

Let me say a little more about each of these points.

#### **To fund DXpeditions.**

We receive fairly frequent requests, even at this low point in the solar cycle, to fund DXpeditions of all types. Our funds are fairly limited so we have to be selective and make sure that the DXpedition is well organised and that the UK amateurs in particular will have a reasonable chance of making contacts. About half of our income can be made available for this purpose. This, when matched by the RSGB DXpedition Fund, means that the two organisations together can fund DXpeditions to the tune of £2000 pa or say 5 DXpeditions at £400 each. I have no doubt however, that these amounts will not be adequate to deal with requests for funding as the sunspot cycle starts, hopefully fairly soon, to show an upwards trend. So, if we need to fund more DXpeditions we need more Members -- more about that later. Of course, the alternative would be to increase the subs. but I personally will resist this and believe that there are many DXers in the UK and abroad who could be persuaded to join CDXC.

#### **To encourage the younger and newer amateurs.**

A significant number of the Members joining last year were substantially younger than our average Membership and this is extremely encouraging. (We mustn't say G0's -- must we Herb!) A club like CDXC needs new blood, new ideas and new initiatives. Certainly, I know it's of concern to the Radio Society and to the manufacturers that



the average age of amateurs in the UK is increasing all the time. I suspect that this problem also exists in the US.

We need to do whatever we can to encourage the newer and younger amateurs to join CDXC. Just think about the HF Convention. It's almost totally dependent on CDXC Members doing their bit but it's the same 20/30 each year who are involved in lecturing and organising. We really do need more young blood. We still have to get our cadet scheme off the ground but, hopefully, we will make some progress this year. Do you know of some younger amateurs who may be interested in joining CDXC?

### **To publish an excellent bi-monthly Newsletter.**

This is an objective that I believe we do achieve admirably. The past years have seen not only an increase in size of the Newsletter but also better quality and more interesting articles. Our thanks of course go to Alan G3PMR as Newsletter Editor. Producing 64/68 pages every two months is a major challenge. The comment that has now been made on several occasions is "It's the one ham radio publication I read from cover to cover." That says it all! But Members can help Alan a great deal. There are still a relatively small number of Members contributing to the Newsletter. Surely many more must have a story to tell? Why not write an article on that new rig, that new antenna, that new software, (that new wife!!!!) Let's hear from you -- all contributions are very welcome.

### **To create an environment where Members can meet.**

Our main get-togethers now take place at the Annual Dinner usually around late January, the ARM, the Summer Social and at the HF Convention. These events are now well supported but could I encourage Members to bring along guests who may be

interested in joining. The CDXC room at the HF Convention is usually fairly busy. Here again there's an opportunity for Members to recruit new Members -- do bring them along so that we can talk to them about the club. We recruited a substantial number of Members at the Convention last year.

### **To issue achievement awards.**

We made a lot of progress in this area last year. Revised rules for the Pennallt Trophy have been issued and four plaques are now to be awarded to the leading Gs in the CQ World-wide Contest. We will soon be issuing certificates to Honor Roll chasers. Bren G4DYO has kindly agreed to sponsor these. The rules are set out elsewhere in this Newsletter. The certificate is extremely attractive. Although the 270 figure may not be seen as a great challenge to some of us 'old-timers' believe me it's quite an achievement for a newer licensee or for someone without that super station!

And finally:

### **To keep the club on a sound financial basis and well administered.**

We now keep a minimum of six months' Membership income on deposit. This seemed to the Committee to be a prudent step and we will be very cautious about reducing our reserves below this level. At present our reserves significantly exceed this amount but no doubt the position will change when we need to fund more DXpeditions as the upturn in the sunspot cycle comes about. We like to deal with Membership applications, badge and Newsletter distribution and Members correspondence efficiently. I think the vast majority of these matters run smoothly -- occasionally, we do have a hiccup for which please accept our apologies.

So where does this leave us and what, in summary, can individual Members do to support the club.



1. Participate in the socials and bring along potential Members.
2. Write interesting articles for the Newsletter
3. Encourage DXers, particularly those in the UK who are not yet Members, to join.

Let's not be saying "Of course G9AAA, etc., etc., are leading DXers but they're not CDXC Members." Let's take a much more positive approach and say "Now what can I do to persuade G9AAA etc., etc., to become Members of CDXC." We are very happy to send the prospectus and a recent copy of the Newsletter to any prospective Member -- please just let me have the details.

## JOTTINGS OF THE SECRETARY

**Dave Mann G0HXN**

Well it was a real pleasure to meet so many of you at the ARM, and what a super day it was. I am sure that it has been said many times before, but thanks again to all the hard work put in by Trish and Neville et al to make the day so successful. The minutes of the meeting are included in this Newsletter with the result of the "election" of the new committee. As usual the same faces seem to appear all the time. I do appreciate that with our catchment area now being world wide it is a case of being able to travel to the various locations of the committee members to hold meetings, but I feel sure that we should make more use of the medium that we have as a hobby.

I hope you all enjoyed the IOTA contest, there where to say the least I think over 150 island groups represented during the weekend, I know that the Cluster was full of them. I managed to notch up quite a few new ones, and also a couple of new band/countries as well. And it is always nice during a contest, even if you are just giving away a few points, to have your callsign recognised and time taken to pass a few words, thanks Don OZF a new/band country for me with your

contribution. And congratulations to Tony G0OPB, Ken G0ORH and Justin, G4TSH for activating the Scilly Isles - they always seemed to have a pile up in what ever mode they were in.

Over the last few evenings I have been listening around and JY1 has been quite busy on the bands, but it appears that even with such an illustrious member of the amateur family he was subject to all sort of rudeness, overkeying, tuning up and the usual "policemen". No wonder the poor man pulled the plug on two occasions after giving all who wanted to listen an ear bashing about protocol. But still he came back for more, only to get involved with a "net". OK great if its handled right, but last night was a fiasco I even felt embarrassed to listen to the drivel being given out by the list keepers.....there was politics, religion and everything rotten coming out across the air all directed at JY1. At least it was curtailed by JY5 coming up and speaking at some length to His Majesty in Arabic, who then pulled the plug, again. It seems such a shame that here is a man who only wants to "play radio" across a frontierless world of amateur radio is subjected to abuse by so called "hams". I made a note of the alleged callsigns that were given out and am sending a strong letter of protest to their national association with the callsigns as given, knowing the politics of the country involved, and its anti-Arabic stand I don't expect anything will happen but at least it makes me feel better. Why does politics have to creep into every aspect of life today.

Talking about politics, hands up all those who have read Martti Lane's article, what a corker. At time of writing this I am not sure if it is going to be included in the Newsletter, if not try and get hold of a copy it is a real good read, and shows the internal politics of amateur radio at its worst. (*Ed, I decided not to publish the article referred to - see editorial*)

73 for now. hopefully you will be reading this at the Convention, have a good time, see you in the bar. Dave Mann.



## LETTERS

Dear Alan

I was surprised, to say the least, on reading the comment "*If you're a DXer in the UK, you belong to CDXC. If you don't, You're not a DXer*". This being ascribed to my good friend Don G3OZF by Peter G3RZP during the meeting at Visalia. I would like to point out that many of the UK's top DXers are NOT CDXC members. I have no doubt that this remark was said in jest, but those referred to could well be unamused at it being reproduced in the widely circulated CDXC Newsletter.

G3AAE, GM3ITN and GW3AHN, the highest DXCC score holders in England, Scotland and Wales respectively are not members, nor are a host of other low profile top notch DXers.

The comment becomes even more unrealistic when taking into account the current trivial CDXC entry requirements of 100 countries. This number could be worked in less than a day in any contest. I can remember that in the early days of CDXC, those of us involved considered that an entry level of 250 worked was quite reasonable. Even this number can be worked in a year by a "real DXer"

I have not even mentioned that the whole business of DXing has been downgraded in difficulty during the last ten years by the massive spoonfeeding facilitated by the packet clusters. In the present environment, even apparently high scores are now much easier to obtain.

Yours sincerely  
Henry, G3GIQ

*Ed: Apologies to anyone who was offended by this statement, which was made in jest. Certainly, no offence was intended. Ed: The following is an extract from a lengthy Internet message sent by Peter in response to Henry's letter.*

Hello Alan

Yes, it was said in jest - but it is a fact that all the UK DXers at Visalia were CDXC members. CDXC Newsletter is a private publication, and so non-members shouldn't be seeing it anyway.

As far as the challenge of DX being diminished by the use of Packet Cluster is concerned, that is a different argument. Personally, I believe that Packet Cluster is not a good idea, but that's just my view. I don't have packet radio capability, also believing that the amateur packet system is about as technologically advanced as spark transmission. (This is from someone professionally involved in packet radio in the radio LAN environment, Chairman of the Transmission Techniques Group of ETSI RES10 on Hiperlan, the High PERFORMANCE Radio Local Area Network, Chairman of the Transmission Testing Group of RES10 and a member of the IEEE802.11 Radio LAN Standards Committee).

I also believe that (and I quote GW4BLE's badge) 'lists are for lids', and I believe that the DX nets and list operations are far more diminishing of DX skills than Packet Cluster, being the resort of poor operators, both at the DX end and the EU end.

73 Peter, G3RZP

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*Extract of letter from GM3BQA:*

Dear Alan

I must stress how upset and disgusted I feel regarding the BS7 decision by the ARRL DXAC members not to add Scarborough Reef to the DXCC list, considering the facts at that time. Perhaps if a few more USA stations had made a QSO, results would have been different. I am presently looking at DXNS no. 1674 on the same subject - a pretty weak excuse it seems to me. Let's also remember the huge effort and costs involved by the crew in putting on the operation. I have a card, for last year's attempt, for a QSO on 20m with BS7H,



dated 25th June, and I hoped that my contacts this year on 20m and 40m would have been good for another country, but not so. Perhaps another vote would make a change in their decision which might include the views of stations outside the USA.

<==+==>

Dear Alan

Thank you for the July issue. While reading *European Heaven and Hell* on page 62, I did remember an old jewel which could extend experience of life world wide:

*What is the BEST of good luck?*

Having:

an English house,  
a Chinese cook,  
a Japanese woman, and  
an American salary.

*What is the WORST of good luck?*

Having:

a Japanese house,  
an English cook,  
a Chinese salary, and  
an American woman.

With profound apologies to all nationalities concerned. 73, Carl - DL9SC

<==+==>

*Extract of letter from G0MRF:*

Hello Alan.

As you can see, we have finally produced the cards for our Gambia DXpedition (*Ed: C56DX, CQWW SSB 1994*). It may be of interest that after looking through many samples and price lists, we ended up at Vi Con in the USA. They have recently expanded their service to include coloured (sorry - colored!) text and a number of additional services at very good prices. In case CDXC members are interested, our cards were £173 for 4000, although this does not include shipping. It did

include our extras, i.e. the AMSAT logo from colour photocopy, the yellow text and the custom printing on the back. Much recommended. (*Ed: CDXC member Chris Page, G4BUE also offers an excellent QSL printing service, and CDXC also has its own design, see July Newsletter for details.*)

At present we are arranging something similar for CQWW95. So far we have obtained permission to use ZC4DX from one of the bases in Cyprus. Tony, G4LKF has been there to assess the available facilities and has taken numerous photos to help in antenna planning. There are beams for 40m and up, but they lack low band antennas.

The group are looking for one or two more operators for this trip, particularly for the contest weekend. Interested? Please contact David Bowman, G0MRF on 0181 572 8615 (office hours). *Ed see also more details later in this Newsletter.*

<==+==>

Hi, Alan,

I'm n Tokyo. A long trip - left home on July 2nd for a meeting in Tenerife, from there to California (via Madrid!) for a wedding in Palo Alto on July 8th, then to Hawaii for a meeting, flew to Tokyo July 15th, leave here 21st for California, leave there 24th for Chicago, arrive home on 29th.

Flew close enough to Kure Island to see it last week on the Hawaii - Tokyo flight. This led to major irritation - can you count an island that you've seen, but not worked?

Did a formal visit to JARL on behalf of RSGB. JARL thought the the reciprocal licence agreement was going through, so were surprised that there was a problem. Hopefully, that's now unlocked.

Hope all's well, looking forward to reading CDXC News when I get back. Shudder to think what DX I've missed.

73 Peter G3RZP



## **MINUTES OF A.R.M. 8TH JULY 1995**

### **12 Noon QTH G3NUG**

A total of 20 members signed in for the 1995 Annual Review Meeting, although several more joined the members at the Barbecue later during the afternoon. Those present:

G0HXN, G0KRL, G0OPB, G0ORH,  
G0SWG, G0WAZ, G3CAQ, G3KMA,  
G3LNS, G3NUG, G3OZF, G3PJT,  
G3PMR, G3RTE, G3WGV, G3XTT,  
G3ZAY, G4DQW, G4IUF, G4PFF.

### **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from:

G0LRJ, G3GHS, G3VKW, G4DYO,  
G4LJF, G4RKO, G4WVX, G6LX,  
GW0RTA/JA3AER.

### **Minutes of the A.R.M. 1994:**

Minutes of the 1994 ARM were published in the July 1994 Newsletter, and distributed at this meeting, were read and agreed as an accurate record of the meeting. Proposed by G4PFF and Seconded by G3KMA. Unanimous.

### **Chairman's report by G3NUG**

"Many thanks for attending, it's nice to see so many of you here on such a nice day. We started the year with the 1994 HF & IOTA Convention, with great support from CDXC members, both on the Committee and as Lecturers.

There has been little progress on the Cadet Scheme, but there have been two possible volunteers identified who may help to get the scheme off the ground. Any news will be transmitted to the members via the Newsletter.

The Club was invited to the FOC dinner where we were presented with the Al Slater, G3FXB Memorial Trophy. (*Secretary's note:* For those who have not seen it, it will be on display at the 1995 HF Convention in the CDXC Room.)

We have sorted out in Committee the methodology for dealing with requests for funding DXpeditions, this is jointly with RSGB HF Committee, and the IOTA Committee where applicable. So far funded this year have been: Conway Reef, Kermadec, and South Georgia, a further £200 has been pledged to Heard Island.

The membership drive proved to be very successful and now stands at around 220. We have reviewed the costs of printing the Newsletter, and a substantial reduction in costs has been achieved. Broadly about 50% of all income goes on the production and distribution of the Newsletter, the balance being available for DXpedition funding.

The Annual Dinner in January was well attended, and an excellent after dinner talk was given by G3SXW.

The new CDXC badge has been sorted out and now hopefully by the distribution of this months Newsletter everybody will have one of the new ones.

The new rules for the Penallt Trophy have been clarified, and also a few issues regarding CDXC awards have also been sorted out.

It has been decided that the issue of club ties is really a non starter, owing to the projected small take up, and the high cost of manufacturing.

This club requires more volunteers to help in all aspects, also more volunteers are required to help out at the Convention, and also on the R.S.G.B. HF Committee. An infusion of



new blood is needed, to help generate new ideas.”

### **Secretary's Report by G0HXN**

“Neville has managed to say most of what I had jotted down, so it just goes for me to say that the Club is now represented in 20 DXCC countries, and looks like getting bigger if our reputation, and excellent Newsletter continues. It is always nice to receive letters of thanks and praise from our overseas members, which can be passed on, especially to Alan as Editor of the Newsletter.

I must endorse Neville's comments regarding volunteers, it always seems that the same few people appear at meetings wearing sometimes three different hats. Give it a go, no matter how small the input it will be appreciated.”

### **Treasurer's report by G4PFF**

It was agreed that the present subscription to the club would remain as at present.

A copy of the club accounts has already been included in the July Newsletter.

### **Election of Committee for 1995/96**

G3WGV agreed to chair the meeting during the election of the new committee.

Chairman: Only one nomination: G3NUG  
Proposed: G3OZF  
Seconded: G0ORH

Secretary: Only one nomination: G0HXN  
Proposed: G3ZAY  
Seconded: G3RTE

Treasurer: Only one nomination: G4PFF  
Proposed: G0WAZ  
Seconded: G4DQW

Newsletter Editor: Only one nomination:  
G3PMR

Proposed: G3NKC  
Seconded: G4JVG

President: Only one nomination: G3KMA  
Proposed: G4IUF  
Seconded: G3OZF

The nominations for all posts were elected unanimously.

It was agreed that the post of Vice Chairman should be filled by someone who would eventually take over as Chairman. It was left to the Committee to fill this position when appropriate.

G3NUG then resumed as Chairman of the meeting:

### **Appointment of Auditor:**

G3ZAY volunteered, and was accepted.

### **Any other business**

G0HXN proposed that the item in the CDXC constitution referring to countries confirmed, should read countries worked. A lengthy discussion ensued, with the result that the proposition was seconded by G3LNS, it was carried with only 1 against. Therefore the CDXC constitution will now read *“Members are required to have worked 100 countries and to be prepared to provide proof of this.”*

There was further discussion regarding sponsorship of new members; it was decided that where a new applicant did not know, and had no contact with another CDXC member the Committee could make the final decision for membership.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1245.

Dave Mann G0HXN Secretary CDXC



## ADVANCE CONTEST INFORMATION

**Ken Chandler, G0ORH**

Welcome to the Advance Contest information section of CDXC Newsletter. And WOW, my ears are still buzzing from HF Field day, and the fastest home grown event ever to hit the world of Amateur Radio, the "Islands on the Air" IOTA Contest. This is a 2 tier event for all concerned. Firstly, for the tester himself, and secondly, for the IOTA Islands Chaser / Collector who wants to work a new island, and give that all important point away in the process to the station concerned. This is what makes IOTA, the most spectacular programme for all, ever. (Geoff Watts did know what he was doing!).

It will get better, and bigger as more islands are put on the air around the world. Incidentally, our group (G0ORH/P) on EU-011, Isles of Scilly, made 1565 QSOs in the contest as Multi-op entry with Tony G0OPB, and Justin (new member) G4TSH. Total QSOs for about 5 days operations was 6000, not bad when considering that the band conditions were, well dead. Tony G0OPB, is writing an article on the contest etc. for CDXC soon.

On the domestic front, HF SSB Field day should be a good well contested event as ever, and there might be a few changes to the pecking order this year, or so I'm told.

I have been asked to mention that most testers do not mention their club that they are representing, or could be, when filling out the summary sheet for contests. This is a waste, as the CDXC score in events could be trebled by just mentioning that your club is CDXC. We are a very large contest group and would make a big difference in our standing.

And finally, please remember to keep your CW keying speed down at times during a contest. It really does pay dividends, and gives the slower speed operators/casual points giver, a chance to work you, after all, it is their contact you are after !.

### IOTA Contest Raw scores

G0ORH/P 1565 160 EU-011 Multi-op  
24Hrs all CDXC.

G3LZQ 936 182 EU-005 Multi-op

F/G3PJT 696 EU-032

G0IVZ 664 77 EU-005 s/op cw

G3SWH 374 98 EU-005 s/op

H44XF 414 OC-047 s/op cw

V2/G6QQ 350 NA-100, s/op cw

### CONTEST RULES

#### ALL ASIAN DX CONTEST (PHONE) 1995.

When: 0000Z 3 Sept to 2400Z 4 Sept 95.

Work stations on: 160-10m No WARC bands.

Entry classes: Single operator, single band; single operator, multi-band; multi-operator, multi-band. No cross band QSOs. Single operators may have only one transmitted signal at any given time.

Multi-operators may have a maximum of one transmitted signal per band.

Contest exchange: RS plus the operator's age e.g. 59 41 etc. A YL may send 00 for her age.

QSO Points: All QSOs with Asian stations on 7, 14, 21, & 28MHz one point., on 3.6MHz two points, and three points on 1.9MHz.



Multi-plied by the number of different Asian Prefixes worked per band.

NOTE: JD1 stations only on Ogasawara count for Asia.

Use separate logs for each band, and mark the Multi-pliers for first time worked. A summary sheet is required.

Asian Countries checklist:

A4 A5 A6 A7 A9 AP BV BY EK EX EY  
EP HL/HM HS HZ/7Z JA-JS JD1 JT JY  
OD S2 TA UA/UW-UZ9-0 RA/RV-  
RW/RZ9-0 UN-UQ V85 VS9M/8Q VU XU  
XV 3W XW XX9 XZ YA YI YK ZC4 5B4  
1S 4J 4L 4S 4W 4X/4Z 7O 9K 9M2 9N 9V.

Send logs enclosing a SAE and 2 IRCs to:  
JARL PO Box 377, Tokyo Central, Japan,  
before 30 November 1995.

### **IARU Region 1 SSB Field Day 1995**

The General Rules for RSGB HF contests, published in the January 95 issue of RadCom apply. This is a 'Portable' contest.

When: 1500 UTC 2 September to 1500 UTC 3 September 1995

Sections:

**OPEN:** Maximum licensed power.

Equipment: One transmitter and one receiver, or one transceiver, PLUS an additional receiver if so desired. There are no antenna restrictions.

**RESTRICTED:** Maximum of 200W pep INPUT POWER.

Equipment: One transmitter and one receiver, or one transceiver. NO additional receiver is permitted.

Antenna: Only one antenna may be used, which must be a single element (e.g. dipole,

long wire, W3DZZ, trapped vertical) having not more than 2 (two) elevated support points, and no part of the antenna may be more than 15m above ground level.

Entrants in both sections may keep standby equipment on site, but it may not be connected to a power source or antenna at the same time as the main equipment.

Contacts: SSB only in the 3.5, 7, 14, 21, & 28MHz bands. Please note that the 10 Minute QSY rule has been deleted.

Exchange: RS plus serial number starting from 001.

Scoring: For each completed QSO with:

(a) a fixed station in IARU Region 1, 2 points.

(b) a station outside IARU 1, 3 points.

(c) a /P or /M station in IARU 1, 5 points.

IARU Region 1 countries include those in Europe, Africa, CIS, ITU Zone 39 and Mongolia. For a more precise definition refer to the RSGB Amateur Radio operating Manual.

Multi-pliers: ONE for each DXCC Country worked on each band.

Final Score: The final score is given by the total number of QSO points earned on all bands added together, multi-plied by the total number of multi-pliers worked on all bands added together.

Logs: Must be addressed as per general rules, and postmarked not later than the Monday 22 DAYS after the end of the contest.

Please don't forget:

(i) Separate logs for each band



- (ii) The list of Multi-pliers worked for each band
- (iii) Alphabetically sorted dupe sheet of callsigns worked.

Awards: The leading station in the OPEN section will receive the Northumbria Trophy.

The leading station in the Restricted section and the second and third placed entrants in both sections will receive certificates of merit. A certificate will also be awarded to the station in each continent submitting the highest scoring checklog.

## **WAE SSB**

9/10 Sept 95 As CW (See July Newsletter)

Note, RSGB HFCC are running a full Contest Station at this year's HF Convention in Windsor. If you would like to operate let myself, or Dave, G4BUO know ASAP or at the Convention itself. Volunteers are also required to assist on Friday, prior to the convention for antenna/equipment installation on site.

## **CQ World-Wide RTTY DX Contest.**

When: 0000Z 23 Sept to 2400Z 24 Sept 1995.

Classes:

Single operator, all band high power (>150 Watts) or Low power.

Single operator, all band, assisted;

Single operator, single band;

Multi-operator, single transmitter, all band, high/low power

Multi-operator, multi-transmitter.

Multi-singles are restricted to one transmitted signal only, and must remain on

a band for 10 minutes, except to work a new multi-plier.

Multi-multi-s are restricted to one transmitted signal per band only.

Modes: Baudot, AMTOR(fec/ARQ) ASCII, Packet.(no digipeated or gateway QSOs allowed).

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m

Work stations once per band, regardless of mode.

Exchange: RST, USA will give their state, or VE area, and CQ Zone. UK is Zone 14.

Points: One point per QSO with own country, two points per QSO with same continent, three points per QSO with different continent. KL7 and KH6 count as countries only.

Multi-pliers: one per state (48), VE areas (13) DX country (DXCC and WAE Lists), CQ Zones per band.

Final score: Multi-ply QSO points times total multi-pliers.

Separate log, dupe sheet, and a multi-plier check list for each band. Logs to be sent before December 1st 95 to: CQ WW RTTY contest, Roy Gould, KT1N, PO Box DX, STOW, MA 01775.

## **RSGB 21 / 28MHz Contest 1995.**

The General Rules: RSGB HF contest (RadCom January 1995) apply.

Entrants are reminded that stations using packet or other spotting facilities must enter as multi-operator stations.

Eligible entrants: Overseas (inc EI), UK.

When: 0700 - 1900UTC Sunday 1 October.



Sections: (a) UK, (b) Overseas, (c) UK Receiving (SWL), (d) Overseas Receiving (SWL)

Single operator and multi-operator entries accepted in transmitting sections.

Frequencies/Mode: 21150-21350kHz and 28450-29000kHz, SSB only.

Contest Exchange: RST and serial number, commencing with 001. UK stations must also send their county code.

Scoring:

(a) UK stations work only overseas, 3 points per QSO. Multi-pliers as per General rules.

(b) Overseas stations work only UK stations, 3 points per QSO.

Multi-pliers: 1 for each UK county worked on each band.

NOTE: the same station may be contacted on both bands for QSO points and multi-pliers.

Total Score: The number of QSO points on each band are added together. The total number of multi-pliers on each band are added together. The final score is the total QSO points multi-plied by the total multi-pliers.

Logs: Separate logs are required for each band. Overseas entrants may use the stationary as used by their National Society. UK entrants see General rules.

Address for logs: RSGB HF Contests Committee, C/O G3UFY, 77 Bensham Manor Road, Thornton Heath, SURREY CR7 7AF, England.

Closing Date: UK entrants, Postmarked by 1st of November 1995. Overseas entrants, 1st December 1995.

Awards:

Section (a): The Whitworth Trophy to the UK single-op winner. The Powditch Trophy Transmitting Trophy to the leading single-op entry on the 28MHz band.

Certificates of merit to the 2nd & 3rd placed entrants overall on each band.

Section (b): Certificates of merit to the three leading entrants. Subject to the decision of the RSGB HF Contests Committee (HFCC), additional certificates may be awarded to the leading entrants from each continent/country.

Multi-operator entries: Certificates of merit to the leading groups in each section.

### **21/28MHz SSB Contest (Receiving SWL Section).**

Rules are for the transmitting section except where specified below. Holders of transmitting licences for frequencies above 30MHz may enter the receiving section.

Scoring: UK SWLs log only. Overseas stations in contact with UK stations participating in the contest. Overseas SWLs logs only UK stations in contact with overseas stations participating in the contest. Scoring and multi-pliers as for the transmitting section.

Logs: Columns to be headed: time UTC; callsign of station heard; report / serial number sent by that station; County code sent by that station(if applicable); callsign of station being worked; multi-plier (if new); points claimed.

NOTE: In the column headed 'station being worked' the same callsign may only appear once in every three contacts except when the logged station counts as a new multi-plier.



Awards: (At the discretion of HFCC, dependent on the level of support) The Metcalf Trophy Trophy to the leading UK entrant. The Powditch Receiving Trophy to the leading UK entrant on 28MHz.

Certificates of merit to the leading three entrants in each section, and leader from each overseas country.

### **21/28MHz CW CONTEST 1995.**

The General Rules: AS FOR 21/28 SSB CONTEST.

Eligible Entrants: (a) UK, (b) Overseas, (c) UK receiving, (d) Overseas Receiving. Single or Multi-operator entries accepted in the transmitting section.

When: 0700 - 1900UTC, Sunday 15 October 95.

Sections: (a) UK, (b) Overseas, (c) UK QRP, (d) Overseas QRP, (e) UK Receiving, (f) Overseas Receiving. QRP stations may use 10W RF OUTPUT or less.

Frequency/Mode: 21 and 28MHz bands, CW only. Entrants are requested not to operate in the sub-bands 21.075-21.125MHz.

Contest Exchange: RST and Serial Nr, commencing 001. UK stations must also send their county code i.e., 599 001 BRK.

Scoring:

(a) UK stations work only overseas stations; 3 points per QSO. Multi-pliers are as per General rules.

(b) Overseas stations: work only UK stations; 3 points per QSO. Multi-pliers, 1 for each UK county worked. The final score is the total of QSO points times the number of multi-pliers worked.

Logs: Overseas entrants may use the stationary provided by their national Society. UK entrants see General Rules.

Address for Logs: RSGB HF Contests Committee, c/o G3UFY,, 77 Bensham Manor Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey. CR7 7AF. ENGLAND.

Closing Date for Logs: UK entrants postmarked by 13 November 95; overseas entrants, must be delivered by 11 December 95.

Awards: T E Wilson, G6VQ, Trophy to UK single-op overall winner. Certificate of merit to leaders and runners-up in each section, Overall and on each band; also to the highest placed multi-op entries from UK and overseas. Additional certificates may be awarded (at the discretion of the HF contests committee, HFCC.) To the leading stations from each overseas continent / country.

### **CQ World Wide DX Contest (PHONE)**

When: 0000Z, 28 October - 2400Z - 29 October 95.

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, excluding WARC bands.

Entry Classes: Single operator assisted / unassisted all bands/single bands, High/low power / QRP; Multi-operator: Single transmitter; Multi-operator, Multi-transmitter. QRP is 5 W or less.

Multi-single: Only one transmitter and one band permitted during a 10 minute period. Exception: one-and only one-other band may be used during the same 10-minute period if the station worked is a new multi-plier.

Stations found in violation of the 10-minute rule will be reclassified a multi-multi-.

Multi-multi- stations are permitted one signal per band only. All transmitters must be within a 500-metre diameter circle or



within the limits of the Licensee's address property, which ever is the greater.

All antennas must be physically connected to the transmitters by wires.

Exchange: Exchange signal reports (RST) and CQ Zone number, UK is 14. A station in a different zone or country than indicated by its call must sign /P

Points: QSOs between stations on different continents 3 points. QSOs between stations on the same continent, but in different countries, 1 point. Exception, QSOs between North America stations in different countries 2 points.

All QSOs with your own country count for Multi-plier credit, NOT QSO points.

Multi-pliers: 1 multi-plier for each different CQ zone worked per band (max 40 per band).

1 multi-plier for each different country worked per band (DXCC and WAE lists) Maritime mobiles only count for zone multi-pliers.

Scoring: Multi-ply QSO points from all bands operated by multi-pliers (zones plus countries) from all bands for final score.

Awards: Single band logs eligible for single-band awards only. Single-ops must operate at least 12hrs (multi-ops 24hrs) to be eligible for any awards.

Team competition: Club competition. A team consists of 5 single operators. A person can only be on 1 team per mode. Team doesn't affect club competition.

A list of team members must be received at CQ HQ before the contest begins.

Dupe sheets: Are required for any band with more than 200 QSOs made.

Entry forms are available from the sponsor for an SASE, all entrants are encouraged to send for a set. Computer disk entries are accepted.

Phone logs must be postmarked by 1 December 95 to, CQ Magazine, 76 N Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801. USA.

### **RSGB Club Calls Contest 1995.**

Aims: To encourage contacts between Affiliated Societies, to give Club Callsigns an airing and to encourage Class B Licensees to operate under appropriate supervision.

When: Saturday 11 November 1995, 20.00-23.00 GMT

Eligible Entrants: All Licensed Amateurs and SWLs in UK. Multi-operator entries accepted in the transmitting section.

Frequencies/Mode: 1870-1990KHz CW operation to centre about 1955 KHz to encourage QSOs with Novices.

Entrants may encounter stations working DX particularly JAs, whose entire frequency allocation lies within this segment and should take care to avoid causing unnecessary QRM to non-contest users of the band.

Exchange: RS/T plus serial number commencing with 001 + name of club + "Club station", "Club Member" or "No Club", as appropriate. NB: The name of the club may only be reduced to initials for CW QSOs, otherwise it must be given in full. A Club station MUST use a callsign which is specifically issued to a club or Society which is currently affiliated to RSGB.

Scoring: ONE contact for 3 points with any station, regardless of mode, plus bonuses of 5 points for the 1st ordinary member from each club, 25 points for each club station and 50 points for RSGB HQ station.



Awards: The Ariel Trophy to the leading Society / Club station. Certificates to the leading individual club member and the individual non-club-member giving away the most points.

### **Receiving Contest**

Rules as above: SWLs log only stations active in the transmitting section. Log column 'other Data' to show name of club + "Member", or "NO Club", or name of club + club station as appropriate. Any station may appear only once in the 'station Heard' column, regardless of mode. A certificate will be awarded to the leading entrant.

### **RSGB 1.8MHz CW Contest 1995.**

When: 2100 Saturday 18 to 0100GMT Sunday 19 November 1995.

Exchange: RST plus serial number commencing 001 plus county code.

Frequency: 1820 - 1870KHz

Sections: Single operator entries only. (a) British Isles. (b) Overseas including EI.

Scoring: Overseas stations work only British Isles stations. Section (a) 3 points per contact plus a bonus of 5 points for the first contact with each British Isles County worked and the first contact with each Country (outside the British Isles) worked. Section (b) 3 points per contact plus a bonus of 5 points for the first contact with each British Isles County worked.

Awards: (a) 2nd 1.8MHz CW contest - The Victor Desmond Trophy to the leading UK station (b) 1st 1.8MHz CW contest The Somerset Trophy to the leading UK station. (c) Certificates of merit to the first three entrants in each section of each event. (d) The Maitland Trophy to the Scottish entrant with the highest aggregate number of points in the 1st and 2nd events.

### **CQ World Wide DX Contest 1995 (CW)**

When: 0000Z-25 November to 2400Z-26 November. Rules as for SSB contest (above). Phone and CW teams are separate. Address for logs etc as for SSB.

### **ARRL 160-Meter Contest 1995. (CW)**

Object: For Amateurs world-wide to exchange information with W/VE amateurs on 1.8MHz CW only. DX to DX QSOs are not permitted for contest credit.

When: 2200UTC December 1 until 1600UTC 3 December 95 a 42 Hour period with no time limitation.

Categories:

(A) Single operator: One person performs all transmitting, receiving, spotting and logging functions.

QRP: 5 W output or less.

LOWPOWER: 150 W output or less.

HIGHPOWER: More than 150 W output.

(B) Multioperator: Single transmitter only. Those obtaining any form of assistance such as brief operators, loggers, or use of spotting nets, including packet clusters.

Contest Exchange:

(A) W/VE: Signal report and ARRL / RAC section.

(B) DX: Signal report. Country name is obvious from the prefix. Send ITU Region if maritime or aeronautical mobile.

Scoring:

QSO Points: 2 points with QSOs in ARRL/RAC section. W/VE stations count 5 points for DX QSOs.



Multipliers: ARRL/RAC sections plus VE8/VY1 (max of 77) and DXCC countries (W/VE participants only).

Final Score: Multiply QSO points by multiplier.

Reporting: Entries must be postmarked no later than 30 days after the contest, no late entries will be accepted. You may submit your entry on computer disk one entry per disk. A summary sheet is required with all entries.

Awards: A certificate will be awarded to the top-scoring QRP, low power and high power single operator sections in each ARRL/RAC section and DXCC country and to the top-scoring multioperator stations in each ARRL Division and continent.

That's it for this Issue, my thanks go to RSGB & RadCom, DXNS, QST, & CQ publications for without them much of this information would not be available.

Lastly if you are running a contest station that may require that extra operator then let me know, I can do no more. I hope you have good and successful contesting months ahead and I look forward from perhaps hearing from you.

I am still finding it extremely difficult to access GB7DXI my local packet cluster due to Ian's tower collapse. If you have any thing of interest or information then do please phone me. Sorry for any inconvenience.

Thanks and 73 de Ken, G0ORH.

### FOR SALE/WANTED

Cliff, G0MMI has an Eimac 4CX1500A Ceramic Tetrode for sale at £150 o.n.o. For a full history of the 4CX1500A, call Cliff on +44 (0) 1296 651 731

Cliff needs 2 x 572B/T160L tubes for his Swan 15003. He will also consider an exchange of the 4CX1500A for two 572B/T160Ls.

## A FIELD DAY PRAYER

**Derek Thom, G3NKS**

Some years ago now during a visit to the USA, I participated in an ARRL Field Day. One of the members of the club was a priest; after the stations had been assembled and were ready for the start, he gathered everyone together and lead us in the following "Prayer for Field Day":

Leader: *Our help is in the name of the Lord.*

Response: *Who made Heaven and Earth.*

Leader: *The Lord be with you.*

Response: *And also with you.*

Leader: *O God, you create human minds and teach them the secrets of your Universe. At the Tower of Babel you distrupted human communications to humble us. Now you raise us up communicating to us the mysteries of Your redeeming love. Save us from all dangers and distasters. Help us co-operate in Your work of mercy by preparing us for every emergency through the training and practice of this field day exercise. Thus may we give You greater glory and our neighbours better service in their needs. Be with us in this place. Bless us and this radio equipment. By the power inherent in these instruments, you bring what is distant here and transfer what is here to distant places faster than lightning. Teach us through these inventions to come with similar speed and certainty to You.*

Response: *Amen.*

(Some may think that invoking such help was not in the spirit of the contest. However it can't have helped them much, as my recollection is that in the table of results the club was well down the list!)



## CYPRUS AND THE "OTHER" ISLAND - IOTA 1995

*Don Beattie, G3OZF*

Last year's effort in the Islands on the Air contest from the "Minkies", EU099, gave Steve, G4JVG and myself second place in the "islands" section of the contest. For 1995, we clearly needed to try to do better. We therefore considered a number of options for our effort this year. The challenge was to find a location that met as closely as possible the sometimes conflicting requirements for a try for the top place in the contest. The criteria included:

- Reliable propagation to the UK and US -
- Either a readily available station with beams, or a location within driving distance of the UK, so that we can take our own (it's not easy to take good antennas on a 'plane cheaply) -
- Easy licensing -
- If possible a "rare" location -
- Somewhere where we have access to "local knowledge" -
- Somewhere enjoyable !

Eventually we agreed on Cyprus. Enquiries showed that we could have the use of the ZC4EPI station at Episkopi. The station had beams for 10-40 metres and transmitting equipment was available locally. We also had the offer of accommodation with Alf, 5B4AFB - a friend of Steve's from his days in Iran. There was also the possibility of activating the Cyprus coastal islands - wherever they were !

The usual planning went in to the trip, and eventually we were off, with all our luggage - including a complete station and Butternut vertical for the offshore island trip - being loaded on to the plane for Larnaca, and all within the 20Kg allowance !

We arrived in Larnaca on the Thursday before the IOTA contest, with temperatures in the upper 30's. The Friday was spent getting the contest station organised and

tested, and the Butternut installed in an appropriate field as second receiver antenna. A check on the VSWR on the existing beams at ZC4EPI (a TB3 and 40-2CD) showed that they both presented a very good match, as did the 80 metre dipole. The main transceiver was to be a TS850, together with a TL922, both kindly loaned by Alan, ZC4AB. For the second receiver, we had my FT890, with a Dunestar bandpass filter to keep the QRO RF out of the front-end.

By 10.30 am on the Friday the station was all set to go, and so we turned our thoughts to the rest of the week, after the contest.

Phil, G4WFZ and more recently, Marios, 5B4WN, had activated AS120 (Cyprus coastal islands) briefly, but we had the feeling that many still needed this still rare island group. And so it was that on the Friday before the contest, Steve and I set out to survey all the possible islands, in preparation for an assault on AS120.

There are several islands that "count" for AS120:

Mazaki - to the north of the tip of the Akamas peninsular, and very difficult to reach. There is no road nearby, and the island is also reputed to be covered at high tide !

Geronissos - to the west of Agios Georgios, just off Cape Drepano. This was the island that G4WFZ activated. We had a good look at this, but dismissed it for two main reasons - it is very difficult to get on to the flat top - about 100 ft above the sea, and also the Ministry of Antiquity had placed it "off limits" because of historical remains and archaeological excavations underway.

Moulia Rocks - the low-lying island group to the South-East of Paphos - about 1Km off land, and activated by 5B4WN and friends shortly before our visit. Moulia Rocks are reported to be easy to land on, but are

covered by the sea if there is a strong swell running. This problem cut short the 5B4WN operation. To optimise our efforts, and to avoid the worst of the heat, we intended to spend a night on the selected island. Moulia therefore did not appeal, with the prospect of being washed off in the dark !

The "other" island. This is just south of Geronissos, and it took us some time to find anyone who could provide it with a name. Roger, G3KMA, said it was "Maniki" but no-one locally recognised that name. Eventually, the name "Manajin" was offered, which another local contact translated as meaning a "sleeve" (the shape of the island) or "Maniki" in Greek. Problem solved - at least we are talking about the same island.

A careful survey of Maniki from the mainland of Cyprus suggested that it was possible to land - although very rocky. The island looked about 10 metres high, long and thin, about 3-400 metres off-shore, but a long way from any mainland habitation.

We started thinking about transport. The nearest place to leave from - Agios Georgios harbour - was deserted when we visited it, although there were a few fishing boats tied up there. Returning to Paphos, we started asking the boatmen on the quay. Our first plan was to take the daily excursion boat, which travels up the West side of Cyprus, and to land using the dinghy they have available on board. But before we were able to arrange this, we met Photis. Photis is the same boatman that Phil, G4WFZ, had used to get to Geronissos. After a five minute discussion with Photis about where we wanted to go, HE was telling US about the IOTA island rules ! (200 metres off shore, 1:1,000,000 maps etc.). Phil must have trained him well. Photis assured us that it was easy to land on Maniki, giving the impression he had done it before (warning - don't jump to conclusions in these sorts of discussions !). After some hard bargaining,

we agreed a price for two round trips - one on the Monday, to drop us off, and the second on the following day, to collect us. We said we would arrange our own generator, preferring reliability to the convenience of leaving it to Photis ! It was agreed that we would confirm the go/no go decision on the Sunday evening when the weather forecast was known for the Monday/Tuesday.

Meantime, Alf, 5B4AFB had been busy. He had located a source of generators for hire (not an easy task in Cyprus), and we confirmed the suitability of the 2.2 KVA unit the following day. All looked good for Maniki. We then concentrated on the contest for the next 24 hours.

Luck was on our side. The operating facilities at ZC4DX (the special contest call of the ZC4EPI station) were ideal - a big shack, with sleeping accommodation and a kitchen just in the next room. We were lucky with the equipment, too. The only failure was the 40-2CD 40 metre beam (a suspected feeder fault) just as 40 metres was closing in the morning ! However, although we made in excess of 2000 QSOs operating as ZC4DX, the multiplier score was not too good - Cyprus is just that bit too far from the heart of the IOTA contest (UK/West Europe/USA) and our contest position and particularly our multiplier tally this year will bear testament to this. But it was good fun, and gave a number of people the opportunity to work ZC4 for a new one.

Once the 24 hours of the contest were over, our thoughts turned back to Maniki. A phone call to Photis confirmed the weather forecast was good, and we decided to go ahead with the trip. We had confirmed with the tourism department that no landing permission was needed on Maniki, and as Cyprus is now a signatory to CEPT, there was no problem with the licence.



Monday 31st July dawned hot and sunny. By 12.00 we had met Photis, and made arrangements to have the boat loaded by 15.00, with a planned departure time from Paphos of 15.30 local. After lunch with Alf in a beach-side taverna, we were off. Starting with what was intended to be a light-weight operation, we seemed to be taking quite a lot ! Antenna and feeder, transceiver and psu, generator and fuel, tent, loads of drinking water, computer, spare clothes, cameras, table, chairs - it all mounted up.

Maniki is about 20Km north-west of Paphos. Sea conditions were good, and the trip took just under an hour in Photis' fast boat. We then took 30 minutes to find a suitable landing spot. But Photis had been here before, hadn't he ? Doubts were beginning to creep in. When it was decided that the only way to secure the boat to allow unloading was for someone to swim ashore with a rope, which would then be lashed to a suitable rock, I somehow found myself volunteered ! Still, the water was refreshing, and provided a much needed opportunity to cool off after the heat of the day. Eventually we had the boat secured between the rope to the island and the anchor, but the only way to get the equipment off was to form a human chain in waist-high water, and manhandle the equipment over seaweed-covered, Sea Urchin infested rocks. How we got it all ashore without something ending in the water, I do not know. As it later transpired, although there is little tidal fall in the Eastern Mediterranean, we had arrived at Maniki at exactly the right state of the tide to allow landing. Higher tide, and we could never have stood in the swell. Lower, and the boat would not have been able to get close enough to the island.

By 16.30 Steve and I were ashore and began setting up the station. A hurriedly made shelter to protect from the sun, a Butternut stuck in the rocks, and we were

ready. At 17.30 (14.30z) we started operations and the pile up was enormous. The first two hours were very hard going, and only with great difficulty did we separate out the stations calling. Then it settled down to a steady 150/hour. Propagation was excellent, and the signal reports were good. All went well until about 3.00 in the morning, when it became clear that there was something wrong with the Butternut. Now this island is not a particularly nice place. No vegetation, razor sharp rocks and crevasses. One fall, and it is a very badly damaged leg, arm or worse. So discretion took over, and we closed down for three hours until first light. This gave me the opportunity to lie on my back and watch the stars and the late July meteor shower under near-perfect conditions. What a show !

At first light it was clear that the Butternut problem was a simple short between one of the coils and a connecting strap. It took ten seconds to fix it, and we were off again. Early morning QSOs brought the West Coast of the US and Japan at great strength. Also Jim, VK9NS, over a very difficult path, but we made it.

By 08.30 we had to make a decision on whether to extend the pre-arranged pick-up time of 11.00. By then the temperature was already up to 40 degrees and there was not too much of a decision to make ! Operating was getting very difficult, with sweat pouring off us, and barely enough shade. A phone call to Photis confirmed our departure plan (oh yes, they have phones on AS120 - actually my GSM portable, which found an S9 base station signal into the island !). But by now, the sea was a little rougher and it was clear that we would not get the equipment off the way we had got on to the island. Photis suggested a small dinghy, and a long length of rope.

And so it was at 11.00 that we rigged up a loop of rope, and made a number of dinghy

round trips to the launch, carrying all the necessary items for sustaining amateur radio life on this inhospitable little island. Again, amazingly, all the equipment came off without mishap, and before too long we were on our way back to Paphos, having made 1300 QSOs in the 12 hours or so of operation.

The first cold beer after landing back in Paphos was just perfection.

We could not have operated the contest, or AS120, without the help of our friends on Cyprus. Most of all Alf, 5B4AFB and his wife Doreen showed us immense kindness and hospitality - and of course tolerance ! We are very grateful indeed.

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### **IOTA CONTEST 1995 FROM EU-032 ISLE DE RE**

***Bob Whelan, G3PJT***

Having missed the 1994 IOTA Contest I was sure that I didn't want to miss 1995. So when our daughter said she wanted to go to Bordeaux for the summer and would we be prepared to give her a lift I immediately reached for the Michelin atlas of Western France. We had already been to Noirmoutier EU-064 and so I picked out Ile de Ré EU-032. A quick check through the 1994 results showed that no-one had put in an entry from there.

The VFB brochure came up with a 3 star hotel with pool and Jacuzzi, for post contest recovery you understand. I operated /P with the faithful Butternut and the IC735 plus the usual bits and pieces. I found a site with a clear sea view and a low cliff of about 30' to give the signal a good start. With a commendable piece of foresight I bought a portable shade shelter, like a tent without sides. It was just as well I did because the temperature touched 35°C on the Saturday and 36°C on the Sunday. I have to say that I felt a bit giddy on the Sunday even in the

shade, and it wasn't the local wines either!

The sun intensity was very strong from dawn to dusk. A bit different from NFD this year! Only minor equipment problems were experienced, an odd fuse shut down the computer twice. I entered the 12 hour, single op., CW, island section. I ended up with 696 Qs in 11.5 hours, with 52 multipliers and a score of 252k. Next year I will have to concentrate more on multipliers. I operated 40, 20 and 15m. I had a great 15m opening on Sunday morning into Europe which didn't seem to extend far into the UK, pity! Thanks to all those who called in. I will QSL 100% either direct or via bureau.

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### **A CW IOTA 95 CONTEST ENTRY FROM THE SOLOMONS - H44XF**

***Nigel Cawthorne, G3TXF***

Going somewhere to do a CW entry in IOTA 95 seemed like a good idea. The IOTA Contest is growing into a major event, but evidently needs some more support from the dots-and-dashes brigade. But where to go?

A family holiday trip to VK was already in the planning, so a re-visit to the Solomons where G3SXW (H44SX), G3TXF (H44XF) and G3WVG (H44VG) had done a full-scale 23,000-QSO CW DXpedition in 1991 was an obvious choice. Our host of four years ago H44KA was still in Honiara, and Peter kindly invited me to use his station for IOTA 95. All I needed to take was my keyer and a PC loaded with the EI5DI's SDI programme.

The original plan had been to arrive in H44 early Friday morning and to have plenty of time to get ready for the Contest which started at 11 p.m. local time on Saturday evening. It's usually a three hour flight from Brisbane to H44, the only regular service from VK to the Solomons. Two hours into our night flight to H44 the captain announces that because the runway lights



aren't working in Honiara, that we'd be turning back to Brisbane. After a four hour flight to no-where we arrived back in Brisbane where we had started only to be told that the flight would not now be returning to Honiara until the following night, to arrive some 27 hours later than scheduled.

So instead of having a day and a half in H44 to get ready for the contest, I ended up arriving at H44KA's station only a few hours before the contest started having been travelling (without much sleep) on both the previous two nights. This is not a good frame of mind in which to start a contest!

Four years ago our trip to H44 had been near the peak of the sun-spot cycle allowing ten hour non-stop runs of Europeans on 28MHz during the local darkness hours. Things were totally different in 1995 at the sun-spot minimum.

The only band open at the start of the IOTA Contest at 12z was 20m. The first G heard and worked was **G4BUO** at 1205z (Dave was CQing loudly), and the second was **G3PMR** at 1218z.

The first two hours of the contest netted only 50 QSOs, a mixture of JA and W with a few weak Europeans. Making H44XF heard in Europe was not easy with the station was running only 60w out. By 14z (1 a.m. local) 20m had gone completely dead. I waited around listening to white noise in the receiver until 1530z before going for a much needed snooze. Not having had much sleep on the previous two nights, this was fatal. I didn't wake up until 20z (7 a.m. local) which was already after dawn. However 20m had come to life again by now with several East Europeans audible. The next G in the log was Ron **GW3YDX** at 2033z, followed soon after by **G3XYP**. At 2053z **G3PSM** and **G3SXW** were worked in quick succession and **G3WVG** was also heard at that time, but the "339's" that I was being

given by some G's told me that the signal was not too loud at the far end. **G4MVA** and **G3GAF** were worked soon after, but by 21z the European opening was over and for the next three hours it was solid JA's. Fortunately JA's are all on islands and were each 15-pointers. At 24z (11 a.m. local) H44XF packed up for another four hours as the bands went quiet during the middle of the day. An afternoon session started at 04z (3 p.m. local) with a good run of W's through until 07z.

Several G's and EI's were heard with good signals on 20m at around 06-07z, but none were able to hear the weak signals from H44XF. **EI4HM**, **G0IVZ** and **GM3PPE** were worked at around 09z short-path on 20m. The last G was Derrick **G3LHJ** at 0940z. By 1030z the QSO rate had dropped to virtually zero, so H44XF ended up IOTA with just 414 QSOs (383 on 20m and 31 on 15m). Of these 11 were G, 71 were other Europeans, 124 JA, 152 W and 56 assorted Asians and DX. Oh yes, it was an IOTA Contest, so being called by FK8, KH6, NH2, ZK1 and other Pacific Island 'locals' helped the multiplier.

Thanks to Peter H44KA for the use of his station for a CW-only entry in the 1995 IOTA Contest from OC-047. H44XF is QSL via G3TXF.

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## **IOTA 95 - A LAYMAN'S PERSPECTIVE**

***John Dunnington, G3LZQ***

Earlier in the year plans had been made to visit EU-010 Barra Island in the Western Isles as a vacation and to operate in IOTA95. These plans did not come to fruition since medical problems meant a six week programme of treatment after surgery, and all this would take place during July/August. Oh well, we will postpone it for a year and operate from our part completed contest site to the East of Hull, and about 20

miles North of Spurn Point at the mouth of the river Humber.

It would give us the opportunity of testing a few items of new equipment acquired in recent weeks, including the new ETO Alpha 87A together with its Digital Controlled Antenna Switching Box. We had never consolidated our antennas into one rig other than by manual selection remote switching boxes, and other antennas fed directly into the old Drake MN2000 selector switch.

Even more interesting was the thought that by auto-programming the "Box", when switching bands you call up your own favourite antenna for that band. On multiple antenna bands (those with more than one antenna), to override the selection, a simple one finger push on the correct button, and your alternative antenna is selected in milliseconds and if you try to change when the rig is being keyed (Auto CQers etc.) nothing will happen until it is safe to switch (PTT Line is not low).

It so happened that Vic G4BYG had arranged a few days holiday which ran during the IOTA week, so semi-serious plans now could be made to operate.

Despite all the HF antennas, we had nothing for 80m as a permanent installation. For some years we have tested various antennas from large vees to vertical LPs all with good results. Results are proportional to the amount of hard work required to erect them - the bigger the better! We have an old loop used in 1992 CQWW, lets try it apex down between the 90ft towers - it will run more or less N/S - and feed it top corner for easy access to the remote selector box. Should go well up there we thought. I should point out that last year when we planted the second tower we did measure between the two to give us 150ft+ so as to allow for such a scheme, or even a dipole, with ends well away from rotating Yagis etc..

Running my TS950SDX driving the Alpha is no problem - just keep the drive input well down and you have the best of all worlds - maximum permitted output, cool amplifier, very cool TS950 - the 950 fans never got to blow even when the shack temperature was close to 90°F. The air circulation fans inside the portacabin made more noise than the gear.

What did we find - well QSYing was a breeze. We used my old 286 machine to run SDI for logging, and a 386 running Turboglog via the cluster to maximise the spot information. A quick Alt-G QSY'd the 950; one dot on the key -new band, new antenna & 87A on tune on the new QRG - what happened to the fun? Well this at least now avoids the age old problem of trying to have QSOs on 7Mhz using an 80M Dipole, or even worse the TH7DXX - we all do it, only some will never admit it! The only disadvantage was that we had to remember we were running SDI so had to "Change bands and/or mode plus key in the Call Sign etc.". We had never run SDI in anger prior to the contest, save a few hours of simulated operations. Thanks Paul for a great little program - even better if it would QSY the rig!!!

We ended up learning a lot about IOTA Island numbers, we originally thought that they represented just part of the contest exchange. One tends to forget that over the years operating CQWW, things like CQ zone numbers and country prefixes become part of the automatic brain input to the contest. IOTA being a first time session required a lot of serious concentration to digest all these strange number configurations. Lots of overseas stations are still not aware of the IOTA Reference for their location. We also learnt very quickly that not all information on the cluster is "good information". Lots of mistakes in input information, you need to check out exact exchanges. It also appeared that self spotting goes on, or "buddy



spotting” when rarer multiplier stations change mode or QSY. This seems to be rule bending when the rules are very clear in respect of single operators but not so clear in respect of multi-operator set-ups. If multi-ops are cluster connected then why not just announce “G9ZZ/P QSY 14032.2, rather then tell your buddy to do it? No doubt that would be against the spirit of the contest! However so is buddy spotting if it is done enough during the contest for the benefit of a single station.

How did it work out? Well as the group are mainly CW operators and the station had never been used for a phone contest, we didn’t set the world on fire, but had a great weekend. We need to solve the acoustics, particularly as we could get addicted to this contest, being multi-mode. I also happen to like CQWW phone & CW so that is a must. Any other activity would probably be CW or even RTTY. It’s great fun cracking pile ups with the sledge hammer 4-ele monobander on 20m, but so it should - after all there are not many 46ft booms around and that’s also exactly why we put it up there. The linear-loaded 40m 3-element also works well, and we had never realised when you turn the beam away from the east how the band characteristics change - gone is the crud which makes QSX so awkward and tiring, and the band sounds like 15m or 20m on a good day. The 80m loop worked well also but we really didn’t do it justice. However it did what we asked of it - anything called seemed to come back be it DX or European. We had a few mid-west USA stations call in plus CP8XA so we can now take it down and put up a proper one made with hard-drawn copper wire, decent insulators, and make off the coax so as to be winter WX proof. It’ll probably never work again but that’s part of the fun! It may upset Vic’s 160m dipole which is also up there but at 90 degrees to the loop.

As for the contest, well we missed lots of

multipliers because we just could not hear them on 15/20 but we could work all the DX multipliers first call, so I guess next year we will have a low beam. It just happens that we have an old (circa 1982) KLM KT34a which has hardly been used for serious DXing, so a re-build and update is already underway. At 30ft it should make a noise around Europe. We also have to solve a problem well known in these parts - take off angles. We are too close to mainland Europe to work OZ/ON/PA/DL (other than the Black Forest) etc. on any band higher than 40m, unless you can get some very high angle radiation. Plans are underway to build a couple of “Cloud warmers” to cover this problem in the near future. We did use a 3-ele wire Yagi pointing skywards a few years ago on NFD on 7Mhz and this really worked well for inter-UK and near Eu QSOs, so that might crack the nearer Eu multipliers like Heligoland etc.

My earliest observation, (about 45mins into the test) was “maybe we are on the wrong mode Vic”, since it seemed like all spots were for SSB. Yes it was true only 8 CW spots were noted in the first hour. Now Vic likes his CW and we did have 83 Qs and just 3-Mults on 20M in this time about 50:50 Europe and USA. Handy having two beams one up into USA and one across Europe. A quick analysis of Eu QSOs showed them to be all I/S5/HA/YO/YU/UT etc. Our first multiplier was QSO #25 - John G3EZZ in Bridlington (We can see Flamborough Head from the shack); our 2nd multiplier was VE2RUQ (NA-128) QSO #60, so you can see we were not exactly into multipliers at this stage. We thought the contest might develop into a 40/80m affair for us - we all like chasing DX in our day to day operations, working Europe for the most part would be different to say the least. So a note for next year - unless your station is a really wanted multiplier you have to work for them, search & pounce Well we have the tools to do it - bang, bang, bang and we are

now up in the fifties but at the expense of the 2.5 QSOs/min which Vic had achieved on CW running USA at the start. OK so lets try running SSB on 20m. This improves the QSO rate but back to little or no multipliers. And so it goes on.

Peter ZRS retired home at 20z. Vic had got his head down earlier in preparation for a stint on 40m during the night. He'd never had the luxury of a real 40m beam to play with so wanted to hit the ether. Running for short spells on 40/80 and picking up multipliers as available helped the score along. Due to the loop bandwidth being restricted and cut for the lower end of 80m (it is actually 200kHz 2:1 limit) we chose to use the MN2000 ATU to cover the top end of 80m simply tuning out the reactive load as needed. Then by switching the ATU in/out we had instant QSY high or low end of 80m. We did manage a few QSOs on SSB including ZC4DX, VE1, VO1. Eventually I crashed into the sack at 01z leaving Vic to his own brand of fun.

Surfacing at 06z, I was greeted with "Several stations asked about you during the night - N6ZZ sends his regards". Vic exchanged greetings on 40m with Phil at dawn. "How's it been then?" I enquired. "Pretty good" was the reply. "Great to have a west coast pile up going on 40m, so we must have a half decent signal out there" was his comment. "Worked ZL1AIH on OC-201 whatever that is, also a ZL4 but you had already worked OC-134 on 40m CW last evening". "OC-201 must be a coastal island of some sort" I replied in between feeding my face with a quad helping of Weetabix in preparation for the AM session. Eventually take over the driving seat and settle down for an extended session, since we really didn't expect Peter back before close of play.

So far we'd had few QSOs on 15m, so it should be a good bet - I ran a few but always

for short spells then things dried, up so I got into the habit of run, QSY..run, QSY..and if spots appeared went for them immediately, irrespective of band. After all we had the best QSY machine at our finger tips.

Two bouts of severe cramp in my left leg (honestly) left me hopping around the cabin just as a car and trailer appeared - "that's Peter", we sang in unison. He is back for another session. - no he's got the boat so he will be off to the seaside for sailing - never mind playing radio on such a glorious day. Just at this very moment disaster struck - RFI! The digital display on our home made rotator for the TH7 showed minus 70, which was impossible since it operates in boundary mode between 003 & 358; below +3 and above 358 the motor is cut off (actually it cuts off at +10 and 350) and the antenna inertia keeps it going a while. We use a worm drive gearbox with 140:1 reduction and 120 pulses per revolution scaled for 36 degrees. 10 full revolutions equals 360 degree rotation of antenna, it takes 55 seconds to rotate and the equivalent reduction is 1400:1, this holds the TH7 rock steady even at 80MPH wind speeds. It also can turn it in a full gale.

After this little diversion back to the IOTA contest. "How about a bit more SSB Peter?" "You operate the keyboard and I will operate the rig" was his reply. Back to 15m then, and I can QSY the rig for new spots between running stations - lets go! Well 80 QSOs and 60 minutes later - "That's it must go and sail my boat - will leave you two to wrap it up". "OK see you during the week Peter bye".

Let's wrap it up on 20m SSB. We find three new NA multipliers in the final session with Vic G4BYG operating on SSB, and enjoying it too, which is more important.

It takes about 45 minutes to un-zip all the gear and pack it for the return journey, another 30 minutes spent lowering the 90



foot tower and making safe the 80m loop so as not to snag should the wind blow before the next visit. The weather was fine all weekend mid 70's with a nice on-shore breeze - driving home after lunch Sunday the temperature seemed to rise one degree/mile but was only 88°F when arrived I home a mere 30 miles inland from the coast.

The equipment had run without a hitch except for the RFI problem which never re-appeared and had never been seen previously. It will be very interesting to see how the station performs in CQWW running CT-9 and the Cluster in single operator SSB and multi single CW as the multiplier station. When used as the multiplier station it will have to perform gymnastics to keep up with the spot activity but that what it is intended to do.

### Statistics for what they are worth:

#### Operators G3LZQ G3ZRS G4BYG

We ran what we call extended single operator, only ever one operator, no multiplier station, and took spells as and when desired or required. Perhaps there is a case for multi-operator single TX with multiplier station à la CQWW - who knows? The test appears to grow in status each year.

BAND	80m	40m	20m	15m	10m	Total
SSB QSOs	22	30	185	103	4	344
CW QSOs	44	235	247	55	11	592
Total 66	265	432	158	15	936	
QSO Pts	658	1817	3028	988	82	6573
Pts/QSO	9.97	6.86	7.01	6.25	5.47	7.02
Mults	36	52	71	21	2	182
QSOs/Mult	1.83	5.10	6.08	7.52	7.50	3.25

Not exactly a world beating score but we achieved what we set out to do - have some operating fun and hand EU-005 to a few overseas stations in the contest. As I said at the beginning, not an ideal replacement for the Western Isles but at least the WX was much better than up there on the day.

## 1995 CQ 160m CONTEST UK CLAIMED SCORES

*From August '95 CQ Magazine:*

### SSB:

G3NAS Single op, 185,760 pts, 258 QSOs, 32nd position.

### CW:

G3ZEM Multi op (G3ZEM + G3VMW), 785,000 pts, 969 QSOs, 4th position.

GM3YOR Single op, 358,592 pts, 534 QSOs, 38th position.

G4BYG Single op, 306,754 pts, 500 QSOs, 53rd position.

## WELCOME!!

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to welcome the following new members to CDXC:

G3KWK	Roger Nolan, Redditch
G4ALR	M. J. Down, Henlow, Beds
J16KVR	Yukihiko Deguchi, Yatsushiro City
W4BAA	Dewitt Jones, Glen Arbor, MI

I hope that all of you enjoy being members of CDXC, *The UK DX Foundation*, and that, where possible, you will get involved in CDXC activities.

David Mann, G0HXN, Secretary.

## WESTNET DX GROUP CALL UK PacketCluster Network

The WestNet DX Group are pleased to have been granted a club callsign by the EI licensing authorities to be used on the club's activities. The callsign of the group is EI7NET and we hope to activate it in many contests and IOTA DXpeditions in future. During IOTA DXpeditions in EI the callsign used by the group will be EJ7NET.

The WestNet DX Group (previously 'Islandhoppers Group') look forward to continuing to make EI islands and counties available to the Deserving in future.

73 on behalf of the group de Declan EI6FR

**RATHLIN ISLAND EU-122.  
EXPEDITION 22ND - 26TH JUNE  
1995.**

***Jim Kellaway G3RTE.***

It was just over a year ago that I became interested in IOTA, in particular the European islands. Having spent sometime pondering over maps and finding out where all these island groups were I realised that here was a chance to have a look into the possibilities of organising a trip. It would be a challenge and, more to the point, make people happy by giving some of them a new island. A colleague of mine at work, John G4CVC, was interested in joining me and my XYL for the trip. He already had plans to be active from Stewart Island OC-203 during April whilst on holiday in New Zealand.

The only problem now was which island to go for, since this was to be my first venture and I did not want to do anything too ambitious. One group which appeared quite near the top of the wanted list were the Northern Irish Coast group. A look at the map showed that Mew, Copeland and The Maidens appeared to be uninhabited but Rathlin Island supported a small community. A brochure from the Northern Irish Tourist office showed that there was one guest house on the island. This seemed a good place to start with in finding accommodation. However they were not too keen on the Amateur Radio side but they were very helpful and gave me a couple of other people to try. It was not long before I had found somebody who was willing to put us up and gave us permission to operate. A date was fixed which did not clash with any major contests over here in Europe. Transport to the island was no problem as a ferry ran on a regular basis from Ballycastle. Flights were booked between Stansted and Belfast. In fact the most difficult part of the route to organise was between Belfast and

Ballycastle.

Rathlin Island lies about 6 miles north of Ballycastle and 14 miles from the Mull of Kintyre, Scotland.

The island is L-shaped, one side being 4 miles long and the other 3, and it is no wider than a mile across. There are hardly any trees and a majority of the coastline is cliff, much of it at 200 feet.

There is a small harbour where most of the community live. The island supports 3 lighthouses which I believe are now all automatically controlled. Cars from the mainland are not allowed so walking around the island is very pleasant. It is a popular spot for bird-watchers, geologists, botanists, divers, sea-anglers and IOTA expeditions!

Its history is very interesting and it has been the scene of some bloody battles and massacres over the years. Being mid way between Scotland and Ireland it was a strategic point for many years. It was on this island that Robert the Bruce hid after being defeated by the English in 1306. It was here that the famous legend about the spider took place. Marconi also set up an experimental radio station though it was marred apparently when one of his assistants fell to his death from the cliffs. This bit of information was told to me by the owner of the cottage where we were staying, whose father was alive at the time.

The plan was to fly out to Belfast on the Thursday, drive up to Ballycastle where we would spend the night. The following day, Friday, we would catch the first ferry out and get everything set up so we would be on the air for the weekend.

The objective of the trip was to keep things as simple as possible mainly because of the limit on the baggage we could take on the plane. It was here that my wife became *useful* as I could use a bit of her luggage



allowance for some of the radio gear. John was going to take his TS-50 and just to be on the safe side I asked Neville G3NUG if I could borrow the IOTA-Yaesu FT900 as it was fitted with a CW filter. He pencilled me in for the dates we were going to operate. I had a full size ground plane for 20m which if conditions permitted could easily be pressed into service on the higher bands. With a couple of radials and a mounting pole it should give a good account of its self. I hoped we might be able to do something on 40m in order to give some of the G stations a chance. We took an ATU and wire to make a long wire. Thanks to David G3OUF I was able to get all the aerial gear into his ski bag but when I lifted it up it weighed a ton. Well, I suppose 100 ft of RG-213 does weigh a lot so a change of feeder was required. I swapped this over to some Mini RG-8 and the weight was reduced substantially.

As you all know the beginning of June was pretty damp and cold but a few days before the trip things started to improve with temperatures rising and clear blue skies becoming the norm. Well they do say "The Devil looks after his own". The trip out from Potters Bar to Ballycastle was uneventful. We booked into the guest house for the over-night stop and found where we had to catch the ferry from on the following morning. A pleasant evening was spent in the pretty seaside town. A nice meal was followed by an evening stroll along the sun drenched beach before enjoying the first of many Guinness's.

The following morning we had to transport all the gear plus a large case with my wife's clothes down to the harbour to catch the ferry out. The journey across Rathlin Sound took about 30 minutes. On arrival we were met by the owner of the caravan who stacked all the gear into his car and set off up the hill to the site.

It was here the only big problem occurred. I was told there was no power in the caravan. Something I must have overlooked when making the initial enquiries but luckily he said he had a small cottage about 100 yards up the road which had just been vacated and it did have power. No choice, radio-wise it was ideal with a splendid view across the harbour and beyond to the coast of the mainland's of both Scotland, Northern Ireland and Southern Ireland.

Having unloaded everything we set about putting up the aerial and getting the station ready. Within half an hour everything was up and ready to go on 20m. Since it was just approaching 1200z it seemed pointless waiting till the following day. The computer was set up for logging and John G4CVC put out a CQ on his TS-50. I think he was a bit taken aback by the pile-up which soon developed but kept them happy for the next couple of hours. I then took over and must admit for the first few minutes I was all fingers and thumbs. Though I had dealt with pile-ups during contests on CW this was a new experience on SSB. However I soon got into the rhythm and thoroughly enjoyed the next couple of hours.

The TS-50 was not fitted with a CW filter and I wanted to do some CW operation to gauge the interest in IOTA on this mode. I changed over to the FT-900 and it was used for the rest of the operation. Unfortunately there was very little time to play around with the rig but I was impressed at the general performance. A good yardstick to measure the performance of the new miniature rigs flooding the market.

The island itself was a beautiful place especially with the magnificent weather we were having. It was never intended to operate for 24 hours a day so there was plenty of time between operating shifts to walk around the island and observe the seals at play in a small cove and watch the other

wild life on the island. After the evening meal we would go down to the harbour and have a Guinness or two before walking back up the steep hill to the cottage.

We tried to get something working on 40m but for some reason the RF was causing the trip switch on the mains supply to cut out. It was a shame as we wanted to give those who could not work us on 20m due to the skip a chance.

Though neither of us have had any dealings with WAB squares we were asked quite often as to which square the operation was in and would we be going to activate any other squares on the island. On the Saturday John was able to get a lift down into WAB square D14 where he operated for about half an hour surrounded by a large flock of inquisitive sheep. Unfortunately the battery used was a bit duff and he had to keep to power down to 50 watts. He made about 35 contacts from there. Regrettably the car was suffering badly from a lack of power which was a pity as he was prepared to go to square D05 which is much rarer but the drive to the west of the island was along some rough terrain and it did not look as if the car would make it.

We remained on 20m for the whole of the operation and it was not till late afternoon on Sunday that the QSO rate started to drop. In the end we made 2292 QSOs with 1857 on SSB and 435 on CW. We spent about 13 hours each operating.

I was a bit disappointed in the CW side of the operation and felt the contacts made were not for IOTA purposes but more likely because of the GI prefix. It would be nice to prove wrong but only once was I asked on SSB if I would be active on CW.

In general we did achieve the objectives we set out to do. We thought 1000 QSOs would be good but to double this was a nice bonus. It certainly made up for the weaknesses! It

would have been nice to have been able to put 2 stations on at the same time and to have been active on at least one of the LF bands. However it does seem that with such a short stay you can never keep everybody happy.

Well, as for next year? My wife keeps giving me odd looks as the maps are once again being poured over. I certainly will try to do another trip though John G4CVC will be in Hong Kong from AS-006 by then. I have a couple of places in mind.

We would like to say thanks to the IOTA Committee for the loan of the Yaesu FT-900 and to the islanders of Rathlin for their hospitality.

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## **ZC4DX - WHITTON AMATEUR RADIO GROUP, OCTOBER 1995**

In late October, members of WARG will be departing for a DXpedition to the British Sovereign Bases on the Island of Cyprus. The callsign used will be ZC4DX.

The DXpedition will be active for a period of two weeks from 24th October until 6th November. The group will be participating in the multi single category of the CQWW SSB contest.

Equipment will be available for frequencies of 1.8MHz to 2.4GHz.

## **HF**

The group will have access to the base's 3 element tribander at 70 feet as well as a 2 element Yagi for 40m. Antennas for 160,80, and WARC bands will be transported to Cyprus along with full legal power linear and other ancillary equipment. Following the success of their operation from The Gambia last year, a substantial effort will be made by the group this year to use the more wanted bands and modes including 160m and RTTY.



## VHF/UHF

A fully equipped satellite station with AZ/EL rotators and computer tracking will be operational on CW/SSB via OSCAR 13 and RS15. 100 watts on 2m and 70cm will be available for mode A and mode B respectively, while a 0.6m dish with a 2.4 GHz receiver will put ZC4DX on mode S.

Our visit also coincides with a planned EME operation from the 150foot dish at VE3ONT.

## Summary

*Dates:* 24 October - 6 November

*Callsign:* ZC4DX

*QSL via:* G0MRF (NB In international call books prior to 1994, G0MRF is listed under the call G8PDW.)

Further information about this DXpedition can be requested from:

Internet: DX@VASEK.DEMON.CO.UK

David Bowman: G0MRF@GB7DEO#37.GBR.EU

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## NEWSLETTER PRINTING

Apologies for the poor quality of the photographs in the July Newsletter. Our printer, who is continually striving to improve print quality, had recently installed a new copying machine. This resulted in a great improvement in quality for text and diagrams over previous issues of the Newsletter, but gave some problems with the contrast of photographs.

We plan to solve this for future issues by having photographs scanned by the printer, who will then have better control over the scanned image. So, please keep those photographs coming!

Because the photo in the Caption Competition was so unclear, I have had to abandon the competition. Sorry about that.

## SOLAR ACTIVITY JUNE/JULY

*Jim Smith, G0OFE*

Average solar flux in June and July continued the slow downward trend in activity seen in April/May. The average solar flux for June and July was 75.7 and 73.9 respectively.. the value for July the lowest yet since the last maximum. The highest daily flux was 86 units on June 9th, and the lowest was July 23rd with 68 units. The running 27-day average solar flux, a good guide to the short-term trends, varied between 74 and 76 units before dropping to 73 units by the end of the period, the lowest such value since early April 1987. The medium-term indicator, the 90-day average, fell from 79 to 75 units over the 2-month period. The 12-month smoothed mean as at the end of July, and centred on January 1995, was 80 units.

Geomagnetic activity has fallen to low levels. The 27-day average of the A-index began June at 12 units, but by the end of July had fallen to only 6.4 units, equalling the lowest recorded among the 12 years of data that I have to hand. On only 2 days did the A-index reach or exceed 20 units, and the A-index was in single figures on 45 out of the 61 days in the period. The A-index was 6 or below between 2-15 July, maybe this was partly responsible for the remarkable E-layer transatlantic openings on 28 and 30 MHz during this period??

As you read this, Autumn will be almost upon us, and I'm sure many of you will be wondering what the coming "DX season" will bring us in the way of conditions. Last year, October and November's monthly mean solar flux was 88 and 81 units respectively. It is very likely that this year's values will be lower than this, maybe by as many as 10-15 units. However, those months last year suffered frequent magnetic disturbances. So, conditions may not be too much worse than last year if that A-index stays low.

73 de Jim G0OFE

## RUSSIAN ROBINSON CLUB

The Russian Robinson Club (RRC), which was formed in 1993, is devoted to the promotion of amateur Arctic, insular and marine operations.

During 1993, RRC supported the organisation of more than ten Arctic island DXpeditions, two of which were IOTA new ones: 4K2RRC (EU-019), 4K3RRC (EU-082), 4K4RRC (AS-005), 4K5RRC (AS-025), 4K3GW (EU-161), 4K3WQ (EU-162), 4K3/RW3GW (EU-082), 4K3/RA1ZA, 4K3/RA1WQ, UW11ZZ/A (EU-082), UW1ZZ/A (EU-161), 4K4DV (AS-029), RZ3AZO/1 (EU-162), RV£GW/1, RW1ZZ/1 (EU-161), 4K1RRC (Druzhnaya IV Base).

RRC has developed its national island awards programme (RRA)) based on the principles of the IOTA programme as well as other national island programmes such as IIA, DIFM etc.. Since 1993, more than 180 RRA awards have been issued.

RRC publishes a quarterly bulletin. Each issue contains detailed island, polar and sea DXpedition reports. Details of new members, and a list of awards issued. Special reports cover IOTA news, Russian island and Antarctic reviews, and other DX topics. There is a RRC round table every Sunday at 09:00 UTC on 14.120 MHz.

RRC members include some prominent DXers and explorers, including G3KMA and UA1JJ to name but two.

RRC can help with the arrangement of visits to Russian islands, and claim to be able to "settle all organisational problems"!!

Further details of RRC and RRA can be obtained from RRC President Valery Sushkov, RW3GW, P.O. Box 3, 398000 Lipetsk, Russia. Tel +7 0742 434 378. Fax +7 0742 744 823.

## US ISLANDS AWARD PROGRAM

The United States Islands Awards Program US I, covers inland fresh water river and lake islands of the fifty (50) states of the United States and selected salt water state islands. US I was formed to further enhance "island chasing" that has become so popular on the amateur radio bands. The US I goal is to promote a simple but effective "system of US island collecting" in a professional radio manner and to operate totally on the "honor system".

US I has no intention to compete with or interfere with IOTA or CISA but warmly welcomes all island enthusiasts to yet another facet of island collecting. US I is open to anyone (ham or SWL) interested in STATE ISLAND COLLECTING. US I may be further expanded later, but for now will accommodate a maximum of ten (10) river islands and ten (10) lake islands from each of the fifty (50) states and approximately ten (10) salt water islands (aka 3,10 rule) from Alaska, Hawaii and each applicable coastal state.

US I operating frequencies are 14.250, 21.350 and 28.450MHz (Easy to remember - there are 50 states!)

All islands will be numbered by the PD according to state and type. Example:ND 01 L, TX 10 R or TX 12 S where "ND" and "TX" are the state abbreviations for North Dakota and Texas, and the "number" is a consecutive activation number issued and the letters "L", "R" or "S" designate type of island (lake, river or sea).

Full details of US I may be obtained from the Program Director, John Reisenauer, Jr., NL7TB (Rt.2 Box 2161, Benton City, WA 99320 phone 509,588,3122)

*Ed: Members of US I were active in July from Fox Island, NA-197 (N6IV/KL7 and others), and as VY1ISL.*



## SO YOU THINK YOU ARE A DXER???

### *UK PacketCluster Network*

In 1912, one E.J. Simmonds of Acton became interested in the development of wireless telegraphy. You may be interested in this short historical account of G2OD, Simmonds of Acton.

**1923 December.** First two way contact with Canada on 116 metres, Canadian station and G2OD.

**1924 October.** G2OD first short wave station heard in the Antipodes.

**1924 November.** First two way short wave contact between Australia and Great Britain. Stations Australian 3BQ and G2OD.

**1925 January.** First two way contact between Mexico and Great Britain. Stations Mexican 1B and G2OD.

**1925 March.** Intelligible speech was transmitted for the first time to New Zealand by G2OD.

**1925 May.** First two way contact in daylight on twenty metres between Australia and Great Britain. Stations Aussie 2CM and G2OD.

**1925 May.** First two way contact on twenty metres between New Zealand and Great Britain. Stations New Zealand 4AG and G2OD.

**1925 February.** First two way contact between Argentina and Great Britain. Stations Argentinean CB8 and G2OD.

**1925 September.** First two way contact on twenty metres between Buenos Aires and Great Britain. Stations BA AF1 and G2OD.

**1925 November.** Telephonic communication established between ship GFUP stationed off Hong Kong and G2OD.

**1926 March.** Intelligible telephony transmitted by G2OD to Australian station 2CM on 44 metres.

Now he must have been a "real amateur"

73 de John G3HJC

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## E-MAIL ADDRESSES

The following are e-mail addresses for CDXC members. I will add these to the next issue of the membership list.

G0HGW thain@rammail.ram.co.uk  
G3PJT 100535.1234@compuserve.com  
G3PMR alanj@pires.co.uk  
G3SXW 100260.342@compuserve.com  
G3XMZ clive@g3xmz.demon.co.uk  
G3XTT field@btcentre.agw.bt.co.uk  
G3ZAY atherton@btcentre.agw.bt.co.uk  
G3RZP GECP.PETERC@applelink.apple.com  
G4DBN g4dbn@cix.compulink.co.uk  
G4OWT steve@g4owt.demon.co.uk  
G4PDQ john@g4pdq.demon.co.uk  
G4WVX bruce@g4wvx.demon.co.uk  
G4ZVJ andy@g4zvj.demon.co.uk  
ON9CCQ gregg.calkin@bnato01.x400.gc.ca

Would others please let me have their e-mail addresses for publication.

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## DL7AH SILENT KEY

### *Tnx CQ DL*

Harry Lilienthal, DL7AH, F6DYG died 27 June this year. Harry was the grandson of Otto Lilienthal, the founder of soaring. Harry was a professional pilot who worked many years in various countries in Africa where he put many exotic calls on the air in the sixties and seventies.

# **YAESU CRUISE 1995 - A BIRD'S EYE VIEW**

***Rosemary and Bob Whelan, G3PJT***

## **EQUIPMENT**

### *On the ship*

HF - Two Yaesu FT1000 with automatic remote antenna tuners. The antennas were Shakespeare 22' Marine verticals mounted on the flying bridge about 70' above the water line.

6 Metres - Yaesu FT 650 with a Ringo vertical at 70'

### *On the shore*

HF - Three Yaesu FT900AT. Antennas Cushcraft R5, 17m monoband vertical and a AEA Isoloop.

6 Metres - Yaesu FT 650 with a 3 element Yagi

2 Metres moonbounce - Yaesu FT 736 with 1 kW amplifier. Antennas 2 by 10 element Yagis. Also used for some satellite operation with 70 cm 2 by 12 element Yagis.

## **Introduction**

When Bob asked me rather casually last February if I would like to go on a cruise for our annual holiday this year I was somewhat surprised. A cruise didn't really sound like the sort of holiday he would like at all. He then added that he thought the southern Caribbean would be rather nice in June. Thus the idea of going on the Yaesu DX Caribe Cruise 2 was introduced.

In 1993 Yaesu organised a week long cruise for radio amateurs and their partners around islands in the Caribbean with shipboard /MM operation, lectures by experts and shore excursions for 'field day' style operation from the islands visited. Judged by

comments heard later, a good time was had by all. As many as one third of the 1995 cruisers went on the 1993 trip. As the 1995 cruise had lectures on the RSGB Islands On The Air award (IOTA), Roger (G3KMA) and Gill were planning to go and this finally made up our minds. Yaesu is the principal sponsor of the IOTA programme.

The 1995 Yaesu cruise started in Aruba (P4) and visited Dominica (J7), Barbados (8P), Martinique (FM) and Curacao (PJ2). The cruise was advertised as a holiday with a radio theme and included all of the usual features, entertainment, scuba diving, shore visits, shopping etc. for more normal humans too. The cruise ship was the SS Oceanbreeze.

## **Day 1 All aboard I Aruba.**

We boarded the ship at Oranjestadt, the capital of Aruba. We had spent a very pleasant week acclimatising ourselves to the temperature change from sunny Cambridge, temperature = 12C, to sunny Aruba, temperature = 35C ! I wondered what I had let myself in for when immediately after check-in Bob hailed a bunch of US operators running two stations on the quay alongside the ship.

After settling in our cabin we went and introduced ourselves. Yaesu supplied our cruise pack which contained two tee shirts suitably emblazoned with the Yaesu logo, a cap, a cassette tape of Seek You (!), a good supply of log sheets and details of the weeks events. Our group was very mixed in amateur radio experience, ranging from the seen it all and done it too, to the newly licensed last week. Quite a few had very limited set-ups at home and saw the cruise as a way of experiencing more HF activity. Roger and Bob were the only non-US operators.

The evening welcome party was hosted by Chip, K7GA, and allowed everyone to meet



each other and it was immediately clear that all were intent on having a great time. Indeed the combination of the radio programme with the cruise programme meant that this could be a real family holiday with the radio amateurs ( 37 of them) able to get their daily 'operating fix' and the rest of us able to enjoy all the benefits of cruise ambience, hospitality, and island visits. Chip distributed copies of the DX Trivia Quiz and the limerick competition for completion before Friday.

There was a station on board which was available at all times that the ship was at sea, including through the night ! For those who felt they had to ...! And believe me some had to !

At dinner that evening we met Gary , KI6T, and Glenn, WR6O, father and son and who run a ham radio store near Sacramento. Gary said that he got DXCC by the age of 14 but was still missing some of the new bits of old Yugoslavia as well as BS7H and BY9P. Glenn claimed that he was abandoned at birth for ham radio, but he looked pretty well on it. Most of the banter around the table centred on how to persuade the kids to leave home ! Gary said that he had now got a 'condo' on Catalina Island where no children or grandchildren were allowed. on the subject of islands, lots of talk about Don Miller's exploits.

The ship was very hot due to a problem with the air conditioning this was fixed during the evening. We finally sailed at 0130 after an evening of free drinks, courtesy of the captain. Actually it was so hot that some passengers spent the night on deck !.

But despite the heat some spent the night in the radio shack. Bob, W1CW, and Ellen, W1YL, spent the night on 40 and 20m. But with little success, conditions were poor. No openings on 6m either.

However Margaret , KA7RYG, made her first QSO ever during the time spent on the quay in Aruba under the expert instruction of Chip and Janet, WA7WMB.

## **Day 2. A day at sea.**

A hot but rather grey day found us on course for Dominica. Several flying fish and sea birds around the ship.

Roy, AC6CQ, showed Bob how to use a hand-held GPS which showed that apart from being about 13N, 67W, but 43 feet high. When Roy put in the co-ordinates of Aruba and Dominica and the time the GPS predicted that we would arrive in Dominica early Tuesday morning.

Roger and Bob gave lectures on IOTA. Rusty, W6OAT, gave a talk on operating practices and the management of pile-ups. This latter was very necessary because the experience of the operators ranged from those who were very experienced to those who hardly had any possibility of operating from home and who had come to gain some operating from the islands. In the event this advice was not really needed because poor propagation limited the number of stations calling most of the time.

However for those CDXC members who might encounter a pile up Rusty offered the following insights :

- object is to get the calling station correctly in the log,
- give the calling stations the feeling that they will get into your log
- keep a steady rhythm
- every station should feel they have a fair chance of getting a QSO

- keep your comments simple, people don't understand English
- work as many as possible on a single frequency
- don't work any special groups.

Roger, G3KMA, had his first QSO with Pedro, HK7JJJ. Pedro worked Roger every time Roger picked up the mike !

I went to the wine tasting whites and reds, Chilean and Philippines, what to see and what to buy and what to shop. A very interesting talk about vintages not seen much outside the specialist shops. But some of the Chilean wines we will surely be tasting soon in the UK.

By the end of this day the other passengers had noticed the Yaesu Tee shirts and that there were a bunch of hams on board. This sparked a lot of positive comment, interest in the trips we were doing and general interest in the hobby.

WICW again operated for most of the night on 40m and had a great evening from the ship. He operated to 4AM and then had to get up early to go ashore. He felt a bit fragile he said.

### Day 3 Dominica

Tuesday started a dull day but brightened up. We docked at Portsmouth at 8.45 AM and disembarked immediately. The ship sailed during the day down to Roseaux to meet us all later on. Dominica is very dependent on the banana trade and had just experienced a change in government as a result. This had delayed the issuing of the licenses to operate until the last minute. The Minister responsible had interrupted a cabinet meeting so that he could sign the necessary papers. Thanks to him and the Ministry of Tourism we could operate as planned.

The operating location was at the College Cottage Colony on a long beach of dark sand. Dominica is very verdant. Originally volcanic with mountainous scenery. Jungle runs right down to the edge of the sea shore. It was hot and humid and it even rained for a very short period. The sea was very warm, about 28C.

Some of the wives went on their own boat trip up the Indian River. They related a tale about the boat man had a real problem with their wives and girlfriends. It was only later when they realised that a different boatman had told the same tale to other people that they realised that it was to get a better tip.

This was the first island operation so it was a new experience for all of us. The HF stations were set up first. The 17m 1/4 wave was planted by Gordon, WB6NOA, about 20' out in the sea. It therefore had about the best earth we could arrange. We set up the other station on 20m using the R5. Unfortunately the Isolooop stripped a drive coupling. Mike, KA8EMG, said that it had probably been on too many DXpeditions. This meant that we were without a third antenna for the other HF bands. We rigged up a 15m semi-vertical which didn't radiate very well.

Propagation was poor, absorption increased quickly during the morning and therefore 20 & 17 closed towards late morning, but from about 2-3 PM the bands improved. Bob operated mainly 20m and after working a string of W's Ray, G3RGD, called in, but Europeans were few and far between.

Chip set up the moonbounce gear but as we had lost some time, we arrived at Dominica a bit late, the moon had already set behind a nearby headland. No QSOs resulted.

I realised that propagation must be poor when I saw Roger, G3KMA, and other operators taking a swim in the sea. They even stayed in the sea during a short rain



shower which pushed the humidity even higher.

Chatting to Norm, W6PO, he told me that he had worked for 42 years for Ma Bell and had only visited UK in 1941. That visit coincided with Pearl Harbour so one day he was in 'civvies' the next he was instructed to wear his uniform. Norm had his 16 year old, grandson, Carlos, with him. Apparently the family had sent Carlos to look after his grandfather on the cruise. Carlos always looked a bit worse for wear each morning. It transpired that he spent most of each night in the disco with the girls 'til 4 or 5 in the morning.

At about 3 PM a group of us took a bus down to Roseaux. This involved a high speed drive down the eastern side of the island. Spectacular scenery and a very good way to end the visit. After the ship had sailed Roger and Bob scanned Roseaux for HF antennas and indeed there was a prominent 3 element Yagi visible. They spent 10 minutes examining the 'island' at the bottom of Dominica only to realise that it must be a peninsular when a car drove from the island to the mainland! Chip later described Dominica as 'quaint'.

At the end of each afternoon we had a lecture. On Tuesday, Gordon, WB6NOA, the owner of Radio School, gave us a talk on trans-pacific propagation. Gordon has probably helped more people become hams than anyone else on earth, 100,000 copies of his instruction tapes being sold. Gordon illustrated his talk with propagation recordings, even the CW QSO of WB6NMT who whistled the contact because he had forgotten his key. Look for W6 to KH6 propagation when there is a hurricane to the south, 1016 mb and it's hot.

## Day 4 Barbados

It's Wednesday so we must be in Barbados. The cruising feeling is getting to us and it's

becoming harder to get up in the morning. Bob has discovered that the early breakfast bar is just above our cabin so I have persuaded him to nip up and get me a cup of fresh coffee before I get up.

Georgetown is a reasonable size place and another cruise ship the Star Princess (?) is already moored. It dwarfs the Oceanbreeze. The Princess carries 2200 people to our 850. Another 'alternative' cruise ship is also there, the 'Jolly Roger'! This is specifically for illegal IOTA operations. Validation of QSOs is not possible. I jokingly suggest this might be just the trip for the IOTA Director.

Carlyle Bay is the site for today's operation. It's a beautiful beach. And the stations are quickly set up in a Dive and Beach Resort Club. Judging by how quickly hams go down for a swim or off on a trip on a glass bottomed boat trip propagation must be even worse than yesterday. However they seem all pretty keen to try out their new 8P9 calls. Bob tells me he only worked three stations all day. He thinks there has been a solar flare.

The day is livened up by the appearance of 10 local 8Ps and someone comments that this was probably the biggest group of 8P calls in one place ever.

Some joy on the moonbounce at last as Chip works 2 Ws.

Andy, WA6WXD, was visiting ARRL HQ and operating W1AW the HQ station when he was called by one of us, 8P9HY, and then by 8P9HM, and then by 8P9EF unfortunately conditions changed else he would have had about 20 consecutive 8P9 calls in the ARRL log book as everyone lined up for their QSO.

We had a chat with John, K6WC, he had a small station at his flat and a better one at his mother's, where he had an FT1000 and an Alpha. Unfortunately it was 150 miles away

from his flat and thus DXing was a bit difficult.

The evening lecture was on programming the Yaesu FT1 HT hand held. It is possible using the serial port that Yaesu are fitting to their radios to load up the memories from a PC. In a way this allows the dealer to customise the radio for every user. The radio can then be controlled with a joystick or mouse. This is possible on the FT 11-41-51 series and the FT470-530 series, 1985 on. Software products such as the DX Desktop & Virtual Microphone are appearing. The possibilities of integrating the radio so that it becomes a plug in card in your PC were debated.

With the poor conditions on the bands a group gather on board ship to operate all the radios HF and VHF. They find that there is a bit of mutual interference between them. Gordon conducts everyone so that they all call and listen in unison. This causes much hilarity but I don't know what the stations on the other end thought. Actually by this time we had not made a single QSO on 6m and there was a feeling that more desperate measures would be needed. Despite the reports of a great transatlantic opening.

## Day 5 Martinique

A lovely morning, bright and sunny. The resort hotel on the south side of Martinique was really first class with a pool and a private bay-like beach. We set up the stations under some sunshades in the garden of the hotel. This was under some very large trees and was very pleasant. The antennas were perched on the edge of a low cliff with a south easterly take-off. Conditions seemed to be a bit better but Bob and Rusty spent most of the morning chatting in the sea. The first problem was that the moonbounce 1KW amplifier blew the circuit breaker. And after resetting blew the main breaker for our side of the hotel. This was not the best way to endear ourselves to the other residents of the

hotel. The problem was traced to a mis-wiring of a plug, it being a standard European wiring rather than US, of course.

Roger was fortunate to have been issued a special call TO00TA, which caused quite a stir on the bands. Unfortunately no-one else could use it so it wasn't as exciting as it might have been. In fact we got shooed of the IOTA frequency when using a normal FM call.

During the gin and tonic break - at least the French know the right way to mix one - Ellen, W1YL, Bob, W1CW, Rusty, W6OAT, and Bob collaborated on the DX Trivia Quiz. It was decided to put in an anonymous composite entry to fool Chip.

However around the middle of the day Bob had a reasonable run on 17m with several European stations calling in, G3RGD, G3ZEM and G3OHN were all good G signals. Bob managed to operate for about 17 minutes in total. This is one of the problems with a group, the operating periods are short and Bob felt that with conditions so poor if you got an opening then you should share it with the others, especially the less experienced.

The hotel could be good for a holiday as the French ambience was quite noticeable. Its interesting because it's not to everyone's taste.

On returning to the ship we were treated to a slide show by Rusty on the YK0A operation from Damascus. The show was in two parts, the first on the amateur radio side and the second on Syria and Damascus. This was one of the most interesting presentations I had seen for a long time.

Rusty observed that Syria was nothing like he had expected. He felt like apologising for his preconceived western views. The contest station was set up in the Telecommunication HQ. Although there was some suspicion at



the start, the monitoring authorities became part of the contest team cheering them on when a new multiplier was worked. The monitors had their PC networked on the CT system an approach which worked very well. The antennas were Force 12 and these seem to be getting a good reputation in the international contest fraternity. The Syrians plan to make the room available for other contest groups and to encourage ham visitors. Much of the credit for the success of the effort must go to Omar, YK1AU. It is hoped that as a result of the DXpedition there will be more YK activity, and indeed Herman, WB4DBB, said that he had heard Omar recently.

The second part of the presentation was a more general view of Syria. Damascus is a city of wide open boulevards, clean and reasonable modern. The ancient civilisations, the ruins all largely unknown to western visitors were spectacular. Syria clearly has a fantastic potential for tourism as the Middle East settles down. Western dress is normal and every one met up in the hotel bar for the planning sessions.

After dinner we went back to the shack and found that 80m was open to Europe. Herman got into the DX group at the top end of 80m and passed the mike over to Roger and Bob. A number of UK stations were worked with reasonable reports both ways, though tropical static was heavy. We were called and worked by a number of South Americans as far south as CE8 and LU. Good DX by any standard. Unfortunately we were chased off the channel by a well known G station. Apologies to any who would have liked to work us. I didn't manage to get on 80m again.

## **Day 6 At sea.**

This was a sea day as we retraced our track back towards the Netherlands Antilles. It was the morning of the Radio Olympics, 4 events to test the competitive skills. They

started with the group photograph. This will probably be the QSL card.

The first game was the CW pile-up. Everyone was issued with a party tooter and drew a call sign out of the hat. The game was to see how many calls you could 'work' in 10 minutes. To make things a bit more interesting a large number of loud horns were also issued to non-hams. These were QRM. The most calls copied correctly was a tie between Jim, K1ZX, and Rich, K8RWL, however Jim withdrew when it was discovered that he had sent his call incorrectly to everyone. Bob came second in this game, holding up the European end.

The second game was the antenna building game. Teams of two build an antenna from wire and insulators to resonate on 28460, (where else ?). Roger and Bob got something wrong because theirs came out at 24860! The best effort came from Gordon, WB6NOA, who hit 28750.

The third game was the so called paddle contest. This involved some suggestive hip movements to hit a ball across the deck. Through dint of a lot of good fortune and a good deal of encouragement from the audience Mel, AB6QM, won.

The final game was the ASCII (or ASS KEY), sending CW on the throne. Points were awarded for accuracy and style. The style judges were Gill, Suzy, N6GLF, and the ship's sound and vision engineer (VE3???). Anything goes in this contest and there was plenty of gamesmanship in evidence, especially towards the style judges. However after Glenn, WR6O, bribed the judges before he started to send, the outcome was never in doubt!

A great morning and one which caused great amusement to the audience many of whom were normal passengers.

The highlight of the afternoon was a visit to the bridge when we were shown round by the navigating officer. The Magellan GPS was the navigation technique used these days but I was quietly pleased to hear him admit that he checked it every hour using the old methods and plotted the course on a chart, 'just to be sure'. The ship had started life as the Southern Cross, she was built in Belfast in the 1950s. The quality of the workmanship was very evident on the bridge and all of the original equipment was in perfect working order and was tested every cruise as emergency back up. This was just as well as we were crossing one of the deepest parts of the Caribbean, 5040m deep.

Later in the afternoon Bob went to hear Chip talk about DXing with a quiet sun. But first just for interest Bob stopped by the Shack and to his surprise found that one of the operating position was vacant. He fired up on 17m CW and found that he had hit a good European opening. He therefore missed the lecture but ran about 40 stations from Europe and South America before being told that he was interfering with the ship's telephone system. You can't get away from it even at sea. So he had to reduce power. Still G3PLP and G3NOF were really quite outstanding signals.

### **Day 7 Curacao**

We moored in Curacao almost directly underneath the bridge which carries the road over the harbour in a deep cutting. Operations were from the Holiday Inn. This hotel had both a superb pool but also a topless beach. We set up again right on the sea edge with the 17m antenna off-shore so to speak. Someone managed to get the Isolooop to work on 30m and Herman, actually worked two US stations. Conditions sounded rather better on 20 and 17m with quite a few US stations audible, many preparing for US Field Day. Propagation was a searchlight pattern, very strong signals

over limited are, continuously moving around.

Chip again had success on moonbounce, 8 stations being worked, however suspicions were aroused when the linear failed just after working WB5LBT, who had loaned Chip the amplifier in the first place.

Many of the party, including Gill and I, took advantage of the Hotel bus to visit the shopping in the centre of Williamsburg, the capital of Curacao.

6m was still dead and in order to create some interest Gordon offered \$100 to the first station to work him. Unfortunately no-one heard him or if they did we didn't hear them. So the \$100 was safe.

Due to the fact that the ship station had to be packed up the operation from Curacao represented the end of the operations. The station was closed down at 1500 hrs local. 1900z.

### **Day 8 Farewells**

The farewell party was held in one of the cafes on board and was attended by the captain, whose father is a ham, the ship's sound engineer, who said this was the best week he had so far and the cruise director. All had put up with some pretty strange requests and gone out of their way to make our cruise one to remember. Norm won the limerick competition with a veritable saga. The DX Trivia was won by the un-named group. Certificates were handed out at dinner to the winners of the various events in the Radio Olympics.

### **Impressions**

A theme holiday of this type can be very enjoyable. There was plenty of opportunity to participate in all the many activities of the cruise. You didn't have to stick with the radio programme, indeed many who had



been on the first cruise mixed and matched according to location, conditions and the attractions on offer.

Propagation was in general poor. The pattern was increasing absorption towards the middle of the day. This meant that the best parts of the day, early or late, were periods when we could not be active from the islands due to docking or sailing. There was only night time operation from the ship/MM but several night conditions were very good. The performance of the 22' whip was quite exceptional; and just goes to show how low loss marine systems can be. The FT1000 and FT900 worked very well. The Isoloop was too complex for this style of Field Day operation. The verticals worked well. 17m was the star band. Little was worked on 15m except on the PJ2 operation.

The VHF results were mixed, the moonbounce QSOs were very much firsts especially 8P, FM and PJ2. It was unfortunate that the J7 activity was too late. 6m was the big disappointment, a total blank. 2m was restricted to a few local contacts on some of the islands.

The Yaesu organisation for such a large group was most impressive, especially the licences.

## Acknowledgements

Many thanks to the Yaesu team, Chip, Mike, Janet and Susan and Brian and Cheryl from Landry and Kling, to the Captain and crew of the SS Oceanbreeze and to the telecommunications minister in Dominica, who interrupted a cabinet meeting to authorise the J7 operation personally. Thanks to the authorities in Barbados, Martinique and Curacao for smoothing our path.

Well done Yaesu, nice to see one of the companies putting so much back into amateur radio, see you on another one.

## SUCCESSFUL QSLING

by Jan O'Brien, K6HHD

In spite of all these "new fangled" computers (which were supposed to create a paperless society!), we still believe that you need the following information in printed form to keep handy to remind you about the important items when you send QSL cards.

Getting QSLs is important to you. If it wasn't you would have little interest in the "GO List". Our goal is to help you get those important QSL cards. We have been gathering information from many sources and feel that you will find the following quite useful.

*Your QSL Card:* All of the necessary information *including your call* should be on *one* side of your card. It is especially time consuming for those managers handling expedition cards to have to turn cards over to find the call. It is fine to have a two sided card but *please* make sure your call is *also* included on the side with the QSO information.

If you keep your log in Universal Time (UT) then the time on your card will agree with the time in the DX station's log and save the manager countless hours. You must have a clock (preferably 24 hour clock) in your hamshack that tells time in the International standard. Formerly referred to as GMT, also referred to as ZULU time by members of the military and MARS members. *keep your log in UT.*

*Remember* that the date changes at 0000 UT. This is early evening in the U.S. (4 p.m. PST and 7 p.m. EST).

If you work a station on April 1, 1992 and you put 4/1/92 on the card and then send it to an overseas country there will be a problem. Most everyone but the U.S. abbreviates date with the day, month, year;

someone outside the U.S. will read that date as January 4, 1992. Therefore, avoid confusion by writing out (or abbreviating) the *name* of the month. The biggest headache that QSL Managers have is trying to figure out the time and date that you worked their stations!

Be sure that all entries on your card are readable. If your handwriting is poor, please print. Do not correct mistakes, make a new card. Correcting errors on a card that is later used to apply for awards could cause that card to be disqualified as "altered".

SASE stands for "Self Addressed Stamped Envelope" and SAE is "Self Addressed Envelope". ALWAYS send at least one SASE or SAE. If your request is for several cards, and especially if it is for more than one station that is handled by the manager, send more than one envelope or be prepared to wait much longer for those cards. Postage expenses come out of the manager's pocket. Standard letter size envelopes are preferred by most managers. If you don't send some means for returning your card, it may come back via the bureau or perhaps *not at all*. (Some managers refuse to answer bureau cards.) When you send a request to an overseas manager or direct to the station you want the card from, include IRCs (International Reply Coupons) for return postage *and* a SAE. Some folks send "greenstamps" (US dollar bills) for return postage. Please use discretion when sending dollars overseas. They are good most everywhere. However, there are a few places where you may get the person on the other end in trouble by sending money, or, he may never receive it. Mail theft is quite common in some areas of the world.

If you fold your SASE put the fold in the bottom of the envelope in which you enclose it. Many SASEs have been cut in half by the letter opener because the fold was at the top!

*Be Patient.* Managers have various ways of receiving the log information, but the most common is via the mail. Sometimes it may take six months due to lack of mail service to some remote islands. If the operation was a DXpedition the cards may not be printed until the operation is completed and if picture QSLs are to be printed they take extra long.

Ninety nine per cent or more of the QSL managers are honest, conscientious, hard working folks, who are doing the best job they are able to do to help you obtain QSL cards. Patience is the byword for obtaining QSL cards. *Please*, be quite certain that you have allowed enough time for the manager to obtain logs before you take him(her) to task for taking so long.

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## CDXC MOST WANTED COUNTRIES

We plan to run a *most wanted countries* survey amongst CDXC members. The results of the survey will be published in the November Newsletter. Peter Chadwick, G3RZP, has kindly volunteered to do the administrative work.

All members are encouraged to send Peter details of their "not worked" countries. This should be done by post, as Peter is not on PacketCluster. Please send details to Peter by October 1st. You will find Peter's address in the CDXC membership list.

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## 5A1A QSL ROUTES

There has been some confusion over QSL routes for the 5A1A operation by the Ukrainians. Just in case there is still any doubt, the correct routes are:

via LZ2UA for CW contacts  
via OM3JW for SSB contacts



## DX REFLECTOR AND DEMON USERS

This message is directed to all the Internet DX Mailing List subscribers in the demon.co.uk domain.

For the last several months I have been experiencing ongoing delivery problems with sites in this domain. demon.co.uk connects a large number of people to the Internet via dialup SLIP/PPP. Unfortunately, some of their customers do not use their access responsibly. In particular, they subscribe to mailing lists (such as the DX list), get overwhelmed by the volume of traffic, and stop connecting to receive their mail. This results in their mail eventually timing out and being returned to me.

Normally this is not a major problem. However, the administrators of the demon.co.uk domain have their mail hub configured to hold all mail for a period of one month before giving up on delivery. This IS a major problem. If a demon site vanishes, I don't know about it for a month, and then receive delivery failure notifications for the *next* month until all the undelivered mail expires, even *after* I have removed the offending addresses from the mailing list. This is simply unacceptable.

I have contacted the administrators of demon.co.uk twice now asking them to change this policy. Specifically, I have asked that they time out queued mail after approximately one week. My feeling is that if the downstream site hasn't collected their mail within that time frame they probably aren't going to do so. When you connect to the Internet, and particularly when you subscribe to a mailing list, you accept the responsibility of either keeping up with that mail, or unsubscribing from the list. Unfortunately a very few people ignore that responsibility, making life difficult for the rest of the community who *do* play by the rules. Part of the responsibility for educating

people about proper Internet etiquette resides with your Internet provider. demon.co.uk does not seem to want to accept this role. The result of this is an excess of failed mail landing in my mailbox. I simply cannot keep up with the volume any longer.

Therefore, effective immediately, I have removed all addresses in the demon.co.uk domain from the DX mailing list. The mailers at ve7tcp.ampr.org have been configured to refuse any mail originating from sites in the demon.co.uk domain in order to prevent people in that domain from subscribing to the DX mailing list. I'm very sorry that I've had to take these steps, however I see no alternative that presents an acceptable solution.

If you wish to continue to read the mailing list you have two alternatives:

- 1) Find a different Internet provider, or
- 2) Access the mailing list via the World Wide Web at this URL:  
<http://ve7tcp.ampr.org/mailling-lists/INDEX/dx/>

Unfortunately this option will not let you send traffic to the list.

Again, please accept my sincere apologies for having to take these steps. It's unfortunate this had to happen, but I guess it's a consequence of the growth of the Internet. If you have any suggestions on an alternate way to deal with this feel free to contact me at lyndon@orthanc.com.

Lyndon Nerenberg VE7TCP Maintainer of the Internet DX Mailing List.

*Ed: A number of CDXC members use demon.co.uk. If any of these change their information provider as a result of these problems, I will update the email address list to reflect this.*

## NEWS FROM XV7SW

### UK PacketCluster Network

Well, I guess I have to confess that I am on leave in Sweden at present. I came here a couple of weeks ago. Prior to my departure, I was in charge of the office for a couple of months, which left little time for possible hobbies.

I have still just got a set of fixed frequencies, but we hope that new regulations will enter into force this fall, so pending that, there isn't much idea to try to get more channels, since I have to pay quite some money for each one. Just before I left, I tried to meet the man in charge of the new amateur radio legislation, who is very friendly and co-operative, but we couldn't make it, as none of us could find the time.

Despite various funny messages in bulletins regarding low band operation from XV7SW, I am *not* QRV on 160-80-40, since I couldn't find any antenna wire. That's one of the things I'll take back with me when I leave for Hanoi on August 26. I'll also install CW filters. I read various DX bulletins here on CIS and sometimes also on Packet Radio, but I do not care to correct or refute the various messages I read about myself since I have a job to do, hi.

Here is a piece of correct information from the horse's mouth: just before I left, I got my QSL cards printed in Hanoi. I'll try to find suitable QSL labels here in Stockholm for my DXBase log so that I can start to send out cards in September. A few tests show that outgoing envelopes are opened and very clumsily reglued, which have destroyed some cards, so I may have to reconsider my plan to mail directly.

I hope to meet you all on low band CW during the upcoming season.

73 de Rolf XV7SW. (Tnx G0CGL)

## RULES FOR CDXC HONOR ROLL CHASER'S TABLE

Below are the rules for the CDXC Honor Roll Chaser's Table. There have been some minor amendments since the rules were first published in the May Newsletter. The table will be published next in the November Newsletter. Entries should be sent to G3PMR in the format published in the July Newsletter.

### Rules

- Open to all CDXC members in all countries
- Also open to UK non members
- Also open to those who have already achieved HR status
- Qualifying number: 250 current DXCC countries confirmed in one or more of the categories.
- Categories are CW, SSB and Mixed, with both current and current plus deleted confirmed scores being shown.
- Position in the table will be based on the *current* confirmed score in the *mixed* category. For single mode entries, the mixed score will be assumed to be equal to the mode score.
- UK non members will be shown one time only. They will be encouraged to join CDXC, and will be deleted from future tables if they remain a non-member.
- Entries to be sent to the Newsletter Editor by the usual publication deadline.
- The table will be published in the July, November and March issues of the Newsletter.

Bren, G4DYO has kindly offered to provide a certificate to those CDXC members achieving a score of 270+ who have not yet achieved Honor Roll status. Apologies for the delay in getting the initial certificates out. This was due entirely to the need for the Committee to agree a format and set of words for the certificate.

If you qualify, and haven't reached HR status yet, do please let me have your score.



## ARI INTERNATIONAL HF AND IOTA CONVENTION

The ARI Committee for the Celebrations of the *First Centennial of the Invention of Radio* are holding a HF and IOTA Convention in Bologna, Italy. The convention will take place during the weekend October 13th-15th 1995 at the Junior Conference Centre, Bologna.

The convention will open on the Friday afternoon, when delegates will be received. There will be a "DX skill" contest, followed by an evening welcome cocktail, and dinner.

On Saturday there are two parallel streams. One stream is entitled "IOTA Convention", and the second "Technical Lectures".

### IOTA Convention

Programme includes:

- Welcome and opening of the Convention, I2MQP.
- Report of the IOTA Programme, G3KMA.
- IOTA Honour Roll and Record Manager Report, G3ZAY.
- Report of the Diamond DX Club, I1HYW.
- Report "Validity of National Islands for IOTA Purposes, I1JQJ.
- ARI DX Manager's Report, I2MQP
- DX Seen from the Pacific, VK9NS.
- The Organisation of DXpeditions, DK7PE.
- DXCC up to date, K8HC
- An Expedition to Conway Reef, SM6CAS.

### Technical Lectures

- Welcome and Introduction, I4NE

- Moonbounce Microwave Activity, I4BER
- Report and Demonstration on LASER Connections, IK4AVZ
- Report and Demonstration of New Beacon Robot, IK4EWK, I4DVT
- Internet and OMs, IK4LZH
- Contest Computer Aided Management, I4UFH
- European PacketCluster Network, IK0NGI

Saturday will also include a Ladies Programme, with a trip to Venice with guided tour in Italian/English.

There will be a "Gala Dinner" on Saturday evening. Sunday will be a Celebration of the First Centenary of the Invention of Radio. There will be presentations by radio and science historians, and by Prof. G. Corazza, the President of the G. Marconi Foundation. There will also be a tour of Bologna on the Sunday for the ladies.

Full information can be obtained from the Secretary of the ARI Organising Committee, Via Benedetto Marcello, 1-40141 Bologna, Italy. Telephone (051) 48 13 46. Fax (051) 47 29 10.

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### WANTED

Trailer mounted Versatower or just the trailer on its own. Good home waiting! Robert G0HGW 01223-263372 or thain@rammail.ram.co.uk.

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### WEST CAMBS CONTEST GROUP

The West Cambs Contest Group was formed recently. Current members are G3PJT, G3PMR and G4PFF. Others in the area are invited to join. The idea of the group is to have some fun in contests, and maybe to have a serious bash from time to time - We might even live up to our callsign, G0WIN!

## POST MORTEM ON MY VISIT TO KERMADEC, ZL8

**Barry Fletcher, ZS1FJ**

By now, most DXers are aware of what transpired on this one man DXpedition which took place from 6th to 13th May 1995, three days less than the planned duration. Also, previous copy printed (*Ed May Newsletter*, P52). Mentioned the salient points in the planning. It was a trip that seemed doomed from day one, but which actually took place largely the conditions which were extremely onerous did not disillusion me sufficiently to cancel it. I think most amateurs would want to operate as many hours a day as possible, and to have a number of hams to work in shifts. I am not sure if the authorities wanted to put me off, but I was determined to make a go of it. After all, ZL8 is pretty rare!

We were delayed leaving Auckland. I had flown in from Cape Town arriving 29th April, and planned to leave on the "Old Glory", an 80 foot schooner built in Malaysia, on the 30th, a Saturday All I had to do was pick up a generator, battery, 12 amp. Battery charger, coax, and other odds and ends which were too heavy to bring to bring in the plane from South Africa, and we could then leave as planned.

I was anxious not to waste time, as I had found from previous experience on VR6 that the skipper did not take kindly to waiting in rough seas around the island whilst I was "hamming"! The possibility of bad seas would inspire him to want to leave early on the return. However, Murphy appeared again! (*Ed: the fellow seems to get everywhere!*) Customs did not work over the weekend" Then more bad news - the vessel was without its generator, and another portable generator was installed on deck to provide *some* charging for lights, radio operation, and to keep the freezer working! I was somewhat concerned, as I needed to

work the rig on the vessel to keep the ham community informed. That is an essential part of any operation! However, while Phil, the skipper, said he thought it would be OK to use the radio, I made one contact and then heard that the radio on board was faulty, and the skipper would prefer me not to use it.

Well, we left Monday midday - much excitement for me. After a day at sea, we ran into a force 11 storm. The crew said it was the worst storm that they had ever experienced. I stayed roped to my bunk for more than 24 hours. Water seeped in everywhere. On Saturday, 5th, at dawn, we sighted Raoul Island, looking ominous in the mist. Cliffs everywhere!

By 3.00 p.m. we had landed, not an easy task! The island reminded me of Pitcairn, VR6. There is no harbour, but one has to climb a short cliff from a moving dinghy in rough seas at times. There is a gantry crane to uplift goods to the shore. The mast for the A3S beam slid out of the netting used to uplift the goods and into the sea. My heart sank. But Shaun, one of the five staff on the island, volunteered to dive for it, and he did!! Was I thankful!! That afternoon, we assembled the Cushcraft 3 element beam, and installed the equipment. I also put up a 20m folded dipole for emergencies, as well as a 40m wire antenna. My rig consisted of a dated IC751 with matching IC2KL linear amplifier and automatic antenna tuner.

When I saw the location, I worried about getting out to the South. There, behind our beam, was this mountain, the one side of the volcano, composed of volcanic ash. Not the best thing to beam over or through. North, west, and east were fine, and that proved to be so. The moment I turned on the rig, and called "CQ, this is ZL8/G4MFW on Kermadec, QRZ?", it was just as if the whole world was waiting! (*Ed - it was!*) Over the next eight days, I averaged 2.3



QSOs per minute, working 93 countries in the process. Bearing in mind that I was only allowed to transmit for 3 hours per day, this impediment was frustrating, especially when I knew I could have carried on for hours on end. However, the times that I did operate were the most productive of any time period over 24 hours. I was allowed one concession however, resulting from the inability to return to the boat each night. This meant being at the landing spot not later than 4-45pm, and that was after walking for one and a half hours! Actually, I had to walk for the same period every morning after leaving the boat. That makes three hours per day. Well, on three nights the weather was so bad that it would have been downright dangerous to return to the boat with the rough seas. As a result I was able to operate in the evenings, and that was when the propagation was OK to Europe. On the one occasion that I did brave the seas to get back, I was almost drowned when the rough sea almost washed me off the cliff face while hanging on to step onto the dinghy which was struggling to come alongside, and that was very stressful because we had to sail to the south side of the island to avoid the weather. To get to the QTH I had to wade through the breakers later than usual and climb up a very steep cliff for 1200 feet, and then along to the QTH, a three hour effort, arriving at after noon, rather than 9-15am.

I worked most countries in Europe, and quite a number of G stations. Actually, there was quite some QRM, and perfectly good signals resulted in my getting only part of a call sign, so if any G is uncertain, he is invited to submit details of time and frequency and date, and we will see if it can be accommodated. In Europe, the strongest signals came from Italy and Spain. All European QSOs were across Canada. Worst propagation was to Africa, with almost nothing heard/worked, due, I think, to the mountain and very poor propagation conditions under the South Pole. Southern

Africans have the world's worst deal in getting out to the Pacific. If there are any missing countries, they will be VR6, 3D2, A35, ZK, etc.. I know the difficulty I had before working Conway Reef and Mellish Reef, not to mention Pitcairn. We worked more US, followed by JAs than any other country. The pile ups were incredible, sometimes spreading over a 20kHz spectrum! The heavier the pile up, the slower the QSO rate!

I must mention the areas of controversy. Firstly some ZLs were most upset that I secured permission. That went out on packet etc.. Why should I get permission if they had been refused? I do not know why. It might have been because I was prepared to operate with enormously tough restrictions, which, in a sense, I almost invited. But the ZLs will, I think, discover that I was able to help open up operations for them, as we received a good report for our behaviour etc..

Then criticism erupted because some ham friends suggested (not at my volition!) that hams contribute towards my costs. So just in case there are persons who think I made a profit, we have received about four thousand dollars in green stamps, donations, etc., and my costs were thirteen thousand dollars. I am grateful for the support of CDXC and the Danish DX Group, and for many individuals who helped cover the cost of sending to bureaux etc.; to Wayne who printed our beautiful cards at a nice discount; and to Phyllis Ka1JC, my QSL Manager, who is doing such a sterling job.

Two days before I was due to finish, I started getting rumbles from the skipper, and though I did not want to stop, I finally had to, or else stay on the island for good, well, almost! I would have done so, but I have an XYL who would have had something to say. But now that I come to think of it, why didn't I?..... Another two months or more at

three hours per day would have amounted to 28000 contacts, which would have pleased some!

So, with reluctance, the beam came down, and I sent the amplifier back to the boat, but deliberately engineered an extra overnight stay with the barefoot rig and wire antenna! I worked quite a few more, including Europeans, on that basis. I worked on 15, 20 and 40m virtually all SSB, but I did manage quite a few also on CW.

There are two main difficulties with ZL8. The permission to go there and operate, and getting there. - there is no transportation harbour or landing strip. It was certainly a longer and more difficult sail than to Pitcairn, VR6.

Now for the next one! I am chewing on 3C0 and 3B6. It looks as though my plans for 5A need to be revised in view of the recent successful operations by the Ukrainians.

*PS; Since the DXpedition, a severe earthquake rocked the island. The safety of the staff becomes more important, and evacuation of double the number, e.g. in the presence of a large group of amateurs, must now be a consideration!*

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## NEW PHONETIC ALPHABET

In order to promote multiculturalism in a hobby that has mainly attracted middle-class white men, the commission has recently proposed adopting a revised list of phonetics.

Comments must be received by 1200 UTC 7 Aug. 93; otherwise the docket will be adopted as introduced.

Aisle	Bdelium
Czar	Djakarta
Eulogy	Fanatic
Gnat	Hour
Iwo Jima	Juanita
Knob	Llama
Mnemonic	Ngwec
Oedipus	Pneumonia
Qatar	Rwanda
Szold	Tzar
Urn	Veldt
Wright	Xylophone
Yttrium	Zweiback

## FROM THE TREASURER

Just a short reminder this time.

Your subs are due  
Don't make a fuss  
We want to keep you one of us !

So cheque! your stubs  
and please remember  
There'll be no newsletter  
after September!

To those who've paid  
our thanks remain.  
To those who've not  
Don't give me pain!

I just hate having to delete ex members from the database!

On a personal note having just suffered a major burglary at home. I am thankful that I had Amateur Radio Insurance Policy in force. The items stolen from my shack were replaced in under 2 weeks. Think about trying to explain Amateur Radio equipment to the normal loss assessor.

I hope to see many of you at Windsor and be warned we will have the CDXC Goodies on sale so break open the Piggy Bank.

Some of you may be wondering why you have not had your badges yet. Please check either the membership list or the envelope label this Newsletter came in. If we only have your initials then a badge will not be produced, we want your first name as we are an informal lot in CDXC, *so please let me know.*

Thank you to those attending the ARM this year for not wanting to take this job from me! It really was a wonderful day out with excellent hospitality from Trish and Neville.

I even had my Annual swim in the pool!

For those who have not paid yet my finger is on the DELETE key.

73's, Mike G4PFF



## **HOLIDAY DXPEDITION TO MALAYSIA -- A LIGHT- HEARTED ACCOUNT**

***Neville Cheadle G3NUG***

I'd firmed up arrangements to give a presentation on IOTA at the Tokyo HamFair at the end of August -- more about that in the November Newsletter. So, I thought, why not try and operate from some fairly rare IOTA groups on the way?

Trish encouraged me to go alone -- she said she could think of nothing worse than 5 days of ham radio in steamy Tokyo in August and, frankly, she wasn't even enthused with Malaysia with "CQ, CQ, QRZ, QRZ" going on into the early hours of the morning!

It has to be said that August is not a particularly good time to operate from West Malaysia. The bands are very noisy and, with the sunspot cycle at its minimum, I knew it would be tough going. But the opportunity was there to activate two fairly rare ones for the IOTA gang. There was another good reason. In August the weather is usually excellent on the East Coast. This part of the South China Sea is monsoon free at this time of the year. From October to March it can be very wet and windy. So, for those of you who would like to visit Malaysia -- and it's a wonderful country with wonderful people -- go to the East Coast in July to September and to the West Coast in February to March. You'll certainly enjoy it.

A quick check of the IOTA database showed that both the island groups on the East coast of West Malaysia were pretty rare. AS-046 (Johore East/Pahang State Group) had been activated seriously only twice and AS-073 (Terengganu/Kelantan State Group) had been activated just once before. I think these activities took place in the early 90's. Only 138 stations had credit for AS-046 (inc. 23 Gs) and only 112 had credit for AS-073 (inc. 19 Gs). I guessed I could be quite popular if

I could activate these two groups each during a separate weekend.

The next task was to find somewhere to stay -- I went through several Malaysian guidebooks and pamphlets including my favourite 'The Lonely Planet Guide' and wrote to 20 different organisations -- local tourist boards, hotels and guest houses, ferry services, etc., for information.

My queries:

1. What accommodation was available?
2. Was electricity available for 24 hours each day?
3. Was air conditioning available? (August is very hot and humid on the East coast.)
4. Were they happy that I operated my amateur radio equipment?
5. Were there some tall trees close to the accommodation?
6. Where was the resort located on the island? (Most Malaysian islands rise to over 1000 feet and I didn't want to fire through solid rock to get to Europe.)

Eventually, I got seven replies -- perhaps my letter had been over complicated!

So I settled on Radin Island Resort on Pulau Babi Besar 11 km. off Mersing for AS-046 and on Pulau Perhentian Besar for AS-073. This lies about 17 km. off the coast. I wanted to be sure that the islands were well over the 200 metre minimum from the shore as required under the IOTA rules. (No problems here for Roger G3KMA as Director of IOTA Galactic HQ!)

With the dates determined approximately air flights were the next to fix. My two calls to Trailfinders verified that the nine flights needed were available and provisional bookings were made. All midweek travel -- much quieter. Yes, nine flights does seem a lot but I had to fly to Kuala Lumpur (KL) first to collect my renewed licence and then to Johor Bharu (JB) in the very South to get to Pulau Babi Besar then, to Kota Bharu

(KB) in the very North to get to Pulau Perhentian Besar. On top of all this I wanted to fly Malaysian -- they're much more generous with excess baggage than the others. The code sharing arrangements meant that I had to complete the journey to Tokyo on Cathay Pacific via Hong Kong.

Another factor to be taken into account when booking airlines is Virgin's policy regarding cabin baggage. Apparently, they won't allow some carry-on cases to be stowed in overhead lockers even though the cases comply with international size regulations. They claim that these cases could be dangerous when there is heavy turbulence. So has Richard B. got it right and are all the other airlines in the world wrong or not?

Everything seemed to be falling well into place after several faxes and I thought I'd ring the licensing authority in Malaysia (Jabatan Telekom Malaysian -- JTM) just to confirm that I could pick up the licence on a particular day. I spoke to the lady in charge of amateur radio licensing "No problem Mr. Cheadle" she said, "I'll have it ready for you." Having played before I wasn't convinced so I asked her to recheck. "Ah yes, there is a problem that day, it's a national holiday to celebrate Maulidur Rasuh -- Prophet Muhammad's Birthday -- and all Government offices are closed." A quick rescheduling of flights and leaving a day earlier solved that problem!

There seemed to be no other way round this problem -- JTM just won't send licences out of the country or even to a local hotel. You have to collect your licence from one of the six major JTM offices -- that's just one of the rules brought about by the public services 800,000 strong bureaucracy of Malaysia, a huge number for such a small country.

About two weeks before going, I thought I'd better check out the small Dell portable

that I use for logging. Problem! -- Can't access the hard drive. Ugh! I try everything - - boot up from a floppy, even Format C:\ no go -- the hard disk is seriously damaged. But, I must say, the service from Dell was excellent. They turned round the repair in 4 days. I find computer logging saves me a great deal of time -- I use Turbolog 3 in DXpedition mode. This allows me to avoid dupes and the personal directory facility is excellent. I have the names of all CDXC members loaded, together with all those on the IOTA database and all my previous 9M2 contacts. I must have about 1,500 first names altogether and these pop up in the comment's field when the callsign is entered. It's great to be able to go back to a caller with his/her first name -- I estimate that I knew the names of about 30% of those I worked -- this certainly caused a few surprises!

Another reason for using a computer logging is to minimise the QSLing chore. I have a personal rule that I will reply to all cards within two weeks of receipt. I just print out labels for all contacts made in callsign order and stick these on the cards (printed in advance, of course). As the direct cards come in, it's just a case of picking the QSL from the box, popping it in the envelope and posting it. No sorting of incoming cards and no handwriting. After three months back home I send all the unclaimed QSLs to the bureau. I agree that a number will be wasted, but I find this way is very efficient and all bureau requests can then be ignored as they will have been answered already. There will be some direct requests received after the three month period and then I do resort to pen and ink to deal with these. Confirmation rates from my earlier 9M2 operations are running around the 60% level and I'm determined to get the basic IOTA 100 certificate from West Malaysia. There's just one QSO I'm missing. All 7 continents are needed for the basic IOTA 100 award and I'm still missing Antarctica!



So the planning is over, the check list is complete and I'm set to go. The only problem that I can foresee now is that my baggage is 35 kg. overweight and that's excluding the two bags I plan to take as hand luggage -- one containing the Yaesu portable rig and the other the portable computer. Ah well, another test of my negotiating skills is coming up! Sure enough the check-in agent announces that Malaysia Airlines will allow me an additional 10 kg. but that I will have to pay for the balance of 25 kg. She quotes the figure. "I don't want to buy the 747," I exclaim, "I just want to fly in her!" And so to the station manager and the 'excess' charge is negotiated down to 5 kg. -- still significant but acceptable.

At this stage I ask the station manager about an upgrade to Club or First. "Sorry, we're full up," she says. Actually, they were. Motto -- Don't travel on a Monday. But then I couldn't refix Muhammad's Birthday!

And so to Kuala Lumpur -- a 12½ hour overnight flight but reasonably civilised. Check in at the hotel, then straight off to the JTM licensing department. The licence was indeed ready. I had an interesting conversation with the same young lady about the validity of my licence (9M2/G3NUG) in (9M8) and Sabah (9M6). My question "Do I need a separate licence?" The answer "No, you don't -- your licence is valid throughout Malaysia -- Malaysia is just one country." (Try telling that to DXCC!)

"What callsign should I use?" -- "Well, 9M2/G3NUG of course." Whoops! A discussion ensues about 9M6 and 9M8 licences, possible confusion caused by operating 9M2 from Sabah and Sarawak, etc. Well, -- the issue hasn't been resolved yet -- perhaps I should use the calls 9M2/G3NUG/9M6/P or 9M2/G3NUG/9M8/P. I just hope that Alan's Shacklog program and John's Turbolog can cope! And

never mind the operator! I really wouldn't like to send these calls on CW though!

Tomorrow I'm off to Pulau Babi Besar in the AS-046 IOTA group:

5am Wake up call

5.30 Get taxi to airport

6am Check in for 7am flight to Johor Bharu (JB) then a 3 hour taxi ride to Mersing to get the ferry to the island. Excess baggage charge again re-negotiated. Next hiccup -- fog at JB -- shades of Milan on a Friday evening! Flight delayed for 1½ hours so arrive JB at 9.30am. So I need to incentivise the taxi driver! The normal fare to the ferry at Mersing is \$M60 (about £15) so I offer him \$M80 if he gets me there in 2 hours in plenty of time for the only ferry. My goodness, what a journey!

The roads are quite good but the overtaking rules seem quite different to Europe. My taxi driver only overtakes on the double white line and regularly makes excursions onto the hard shoulder. The occasional very deep pot hole makes the trip even more exciting -- the taxi driver explains that the holes only get repaired when someone complains and people usually only complain when someone gets seriously injured! We arrive in Mersing 1 hour 55 minutes later (and I'm a good ½ stone lighter!). The ferry takes about an hour to cross to Pulau Babi Besar 'Big Pig Island' (although the wild boars have long since disappeared).

The resort, Radin Island Resort comprises a small central dining room and a bar and about 30 chalets. All have power and A/C and the tree that I ordered is fairly close. Next hiccup -- one generator has broken down and there's no power from 11am to 4pm (and this is despite all the checking)! Not to worry -- day time conditions are usually pretty poor in this part of the world. I explain to the manager that I would like to run an aerial wire between two trees -- no problem. After a few deft shots with my

faithful catapult I get some nylon cord over two trees. This year I used a light fishing trace with heavy weights at the end of the line. It saved a great deal of nylon cord! The 20m dipole is up and facing Europe -- actually it's a VRD -- a vertically radiating dipole with a  $\frac{1}{2}$  wave top and  $\frac{1}{4}$  wave vertical feed terminated with a choke. This seemed to work quite well in the past. The Yaesu portable rig is set up and away we go. I was actually on the air one day ahead of my published schedule but the first day conditions were poor. I worked a few Gs much earlier than usual around 1300Z with the band fading to Europe by 1400Z. It's usually open until 1600Z. This doesn't look very promising! Next day, Friday, it rained and rained and rained and this in the dry season in this part of Malaysia. (They say in Malaysia when it rains on Friday it rains all day!) Anyway, I was determined to get a second antenna up, one more orientated towards to US. The full sized G5RV seemed ideal and I could then get out on the other bands also. This was erected at 90 degrees to the dipole. Again, the catapult did the trick -- the 30 foot vertical element was well clear of the ground. Actually, the G5RV proved to be a real asset later on in the evening. I was able to work a large number of US West Coast stations on it that I could hardly hear on the dipole. On the other hand the dipole was much better to Europe than the G5RV. So it was worthwhile getting really soaked when putting up these antennas and the two together seemed a pretty good combination. When I was putting up the aerials the only real excitement was when a three foot iguana rushed out in front of me. It seemed more terrified than me!

And so to some serious DXing. After supper on the second day (around 1500Z) 20m started to really open up and I was getting calls from all around Europe, from South Africa and from the West coast of the States. In the middle of it all I even managed to work a few US East coast stations

presumably over the North Pole -- a very difficult path with Arctic flutter on the signals. The Yaesu rig, the FT900AT with a switched-mode power supply worked like a dream. It's very selective and I'm told the audio is very good too. I averaged 100 QSOs an hour for about 5 hours with the band finally dying out around 4am local time (2000Z). I have never known such good conditions, the band usually closes 3/4 hours earlier. Good portents -- or were they? Next day I find a very noisy and almost dead band with very few signals. I guess these conditions must have been caused by some solar disturbance.

I knew I had a couple of tough days ahead and tough they were -- it was very hard going though thoroughly worthwhile. The guys getting that new one were all very appreciative.



**The shack on Pulau Babi Besar**

During the middle of the next night nature calls, no doubt helped by a number of beers downed in anticipation of the European pile-up that never happened. And there sitting on the loo seat is the largest spider I have ever seen. It was about 5 inches across and very hairy. I guess I nearly jumped through the roof! Anyway, sprightly as a lamb, I slammed down the lid and flushed the loo. The menace had gone!

I mentioned this to the manager next morning and he was horrified by what I had done. He explained that the spider was



totally harmless and was known as Zuzu. Zuzu belonged to chalet 103 and did an excellent job keeping it bug free. Ah well, I felt happier that Zuzu was now exploring the septic tanks of Pulau Babi Besar! I'm quite happy to use Ridsect to get rid of the bugs! Motto -- Gentlemen -- Always lower the seat (and the lid)!

The bands gradually seem to be recovering - I guess one good day in five is not too bad when we're at the bottom of the sunspot cycle. Now for some photography -- a picture of me standing by an official Malaysian sign about the island should satisfy the IOTA Committee that "I wuz there!"

No real adventures today but a little sideline. There's a solar powered telephone box by the beach with a solar panel, battery, UHF aerial pointed at the mainland and small transceiver. My goodness, what technology! I'll try and phone the XYL. But -- it needs a telephone card to make it work -- and where do you buy telephone cards? - Yes, you've got it -- back on the mainland of course! Sorry Trish! Actually the unit was broken -- the locals said 'It no play! - Ah well, no pay, no play, hi hi!

The QSO numbers were building up despite the poor conditions and lack of power in the daytime. I'll be happy to make 1000 QSOs from AS-046. For 90% it will be a new one for IOTA.

There's not a lot further to report by the time my operation from Pulau Bali Besar (AS-046) comes to an end. The last three days are all BN -- below normal -- and I end up with around 900 QSOs excluding dupes. The dry season continues with 36 hours of continuous rain -- someone up there must know that those antennas have to come down! The taxi ride back to JB was this time fairly uneventful except that it took nearly three hours through a solid wall of rain. And so to Kota Bharu (KB) via KL. KB is in the

very North of Malaysia and is the jumping off point for the North Eastern islands. I didn't realise I'd booked to stay in a Moslem-run hotel -- and no alcohol was available. This must be the first day in the past 14,600 days on which I've not had a beer! An uneventful taxi ride to pick up the ferry that was actually waiting for me and left exactly on time. A lengthy ferry ride of 1½ hours to Pulau Perhentian Besar (Big Stop-over Island -- fishing boats shelter here in storms) that lies in the IOTA AS-073 group. Yes, I thought everything was going too smoothly!

The motto of the Perhentian Island Resort is "Where reality is like a dream" - I've not yet worked out what this motto means but I checked out a number of chalets.

No.1 -- No trees,

No.2 -- Loo doesn't flush,

No.3 -- No air conditioning,

No.4 -- Smells of drains, and is in the middle of a building site. In addition there were overhead mains electric cables all over the place.

This was turning out to be a bit of a problem so I escalated the situation -- front office manager, then hotel manager, then the owners' representative.

I explained that I need a chalet that:

1. Has a loo that works,
2. Has A/C that works,
3. Is on high ground,
4. Has no overhead electricity cables nearby,
5. Is close to some tall trees.

"You need chalet 220" says the owner's rep., and, lo and behold, the problem is solved.

This chalet was on high ground with two high palms -- each about 50 feet high orientated NE-SW and just ideal for Europe. I'm told it's a "Super Deluxe" and will cost another M\$20 each day (about £5). The deal is done and 'NUG is happy again. The 50

foot palms prove to be just within the reach of my catapult, so up goes the 20m VRD (no rain this time) and we're on the air. First contact C21JJ in Nauru followed by a number of JAs and Pacific stations. In the evening a real European pile-up develops with over 250 QSOs in the 2½ hour opening and good signal reports. I'm also picking up the occasional US station. The G5RV goes up next morning and we're all set to work the world of IOTA. High normal (HN) conditions are forecast for the next few days so prospects look good.

In the middle of my stay on Pulau Perhentian Besar I decide to have a day's boat fishing. The fisherman and I were happily reeling in fairly small fish of the 1 lb. to 2 lb. variety when suddenly I get the most enormous bite - coral on the bottom? No! I reel away -- I can tell it's something big -- and yes, it was - the most horrible looking sea snake, flat and about 4 feet long, had tried to take my last catch! These creatures are extremely dangerous and venomous -- in addition, I have a real phobia about snakes! Anyway, the fisherman cut the line and the beast descended to the depths of the South China Sea. Not a good catch!



**Pulau Perhentian Besar**

Conditions were quite good on Pulau Perhentian Besar with a 90 minute opening to Europe each evening generating around 120/150 QSOs and sometimes more. East and mid West North American signals came

in over the North Pole during the European opening -- they had tremendous Arctic flutter. For each day conditions were said to be HN but I felt that signal strengths were about 2 S points down on those of 18 months ago during my last visit. There were many signals just above the noise level.

The weather was excellent here with twelve hours of unbroken sunshine during the daytime and about one hour of rain in the middle of the night. But there's a delightful breeze and the sea is crystal clear -- ideal for snorkelling and scuba diving.

A bull frog visited the shack last night -- he was about three inches across -- and he sat on the table next to the computer and glared at me for over five minutes. Perhaps he could make more sense of the European pile-up than I could! He finally bounded off into the jungle -- goodness knows how he got into the chalet in the first place.

I also made an interesting discovery today. During the first evening the meal service had been a shambles so I had a 'heart-to-heart' with the restaurant manager -- "Once a management consultant, always a management consultant" runs the motto. Several beers were downed and my suggestions, hopefully constructive, seemed to be accepted. I noticed a vast improvement in service for the rest of the week but I couldn't really believe that it was as a result of our chat. -- It wasn't! The manager had instructed the staff that I be treated as a VIP and all my meal orders were endorsed accordingly. At least one satisfied customer!

No other real happenings on Pulau Perhentian Besar except I felt some creepy-crawly climbing up my back inside my shirt. It was a huge 'roach about 1½ inches long -- actually, I believe they're quite harmless although they look horrid. Anyway, it was quickly disposed of. Come back, Zuzu!



## Some Statistics

	Stations Worked*	Europe	
AS-046	902	663	74%
AS-073	1353	1080	80%
Total	2255	1743	77%

Balance outside Europe was roughly split equally between AS, NA and OC

\* (excluding dupes.)

110 different British Isles stations were worked including 38 from both islands and including 46 CDXC Members -- the balance of non CDXC Members provides us with a great recruitment opportunity that we plan to pursue!

So, my thanks to Roger, G3KMA for reliably relaying messages to Trish at home - the only sound method of communication from these Malaysian islands, to Hal N7BZI, Jim VK9NS and Ramon ZL1ARY for fixing up skeds with various points of the world -- we made them all eventually! And of course thanks to all who worked me -- which is what it's all about!

Would I go to these particular spots again? Yes, I would, the Radin Island Resort on Pulau Bali Besar, (AS-046) is relatively under-developed but the people are wonderful. As for the Perhentian Island Resort (AS-073) within six months the development there should be complete, including a large swimming pool and landscaping and it will become an upmarket place to stay. For a little ham radio plus sun, swimming, snorkelling and scuba diving, they will both be hard to beat.

## The Yaesu FT-900AT

And finally some comments on the Yaesu portable rig that has been loaned to the IOTA Committee as part of the Sponsorship Agreement. It is an excellent rig. It comes in a splash proof carry-on case complete with switched-mode power supply and

accessories. It's very selective, sensitive, reliable and easy to operate. I was delighted by the way I could pull out weak signals just above the noise level -- and there were lots of them. On my IOTA listening frequencies of 14.270 to 14.275 there was a solid block of signals during the week-ends all generally fairly weak. I also particularly liked the ATU. It retuned very quickly as I changed frequency and always remembered the last setting on a particular band.

I've tried most of the other smaller portable rigs on the market and the FT-900AT is a clear leader. It's more expensive than the others - but then you get what you pay for!

## Some Conclusions

Stay at hotels or resorts with access to a fax -- communication is so much easier.

Travel mid week -- Tuesday/ Wednesday/ possibly Thursday -- there's likely to be more room available on the plane.

Use a check list to get the gear together.

Check and double check re public holidays in the country you're visiting

Work split and never break your own rules.

Get your cards out quickly.

Even the best laid plans will go astray -- don't worry -- all problems can be solved.

And finally what, in my view, are the characteristics of good operators?

1. They listen. Say you're working split transmitting on 14.260 and listening between 14.270 and 14.275. Just say "Try 273" -- the good listeners will pick this up straight away.
2. They are patient. They wait until your signal builds up so it's properly readable. None of this 3/3 -- 3/3 nonsense, etc., etc. They make good clean contacts and get their QSOs confirmed. No 'Not in log' disappointments for these types.

## CANADA 1995

**Martin Atherton, G3ZAY**

I have become stuck in something of a rut - but a very pleasant one. Every summer the urge to head north to the Arctic becomes irresistible and Canada which offers a wide choice of IOTA locations with good transport options, welcoming people, and no unpleasant diseases, is the obvious first choice. For 1995 I had to decide between VE8 where Somerset Island and the Pelly Bay (Gulf of Boothia) islands are still un-numbered, and Labrador where the central group is un-numbered and I could knock-off a personal wanted group in the south having missed Bruno F5JYD when he operated there two years ago. Labrador, with the benefit of some background information from Bruno, seemed to be the obvious choice. Firstly - it would be cheaper than the NWT. And secondly there might not be any airline service there in future years given the economic difficulties and depopulation following the Atlantic fishery collapse. My research task was to track down IOTA-qualifying islands as close as possible to an airstrip with scheduled service and ideally find ones with electricity laid on.

I began with the central un-numbered group between 54.4 and 57.6N. At first sight this would be easy as the community of Davis Inlet is located on Iluikoyak Island and is served twice a day by Twin Otter from Goose Bay. Even if the island itself did not count (and it looked rather close to the mainland on my 1M:1 map) there were plenty of definite "counters" nearby. There was no hotel listed, however, and a number of Canadian friends warned that the community was not a happy place. Some years ago a group of children burned to death while simultaneously sniffing petrol and smoking, and according to a TV documentary a majority of the adult population have attempted suicide at some time. The hamlet was created from scratch

by the Ottawa government for the formerly migratory Innu native people but sadly they are not surviving the assault of western culture on their traditional way of life. With some misgivings I 'phoned the RCMP office at Davis and was given the telephone number of the Band Council who would be best placed to lay on accommodation and transport for me. To my surprise a young guy at the Council was very encouraging and thought there would be no problem in finding as much help as I needed. A trip to the Cambridge University library, however, revealed that Iluikoyak Island is too close to the mainland to count for IOTA and I would have to look at one of its neighbours or go elsewhere.

The next choice was the Inuit settlement of Hopedale some 50 miles south of Davis and next stop on the Twin Otter route. According to the map there were several qualifying islands within 1km and, better still, the tourist guide listed a hotel which featured optional boat trips. In early January I dashed off a letter asking about access to the islands and received a prompt response setting out hire fees not only for the boat but also tents, batteries, and generators. This looked good as it offered the prospect of a comfortable bed each night and the professional response gave confidence that the "manana" attitude I'd met in northern Quebec last year would not rear its head again. The next problem was to find somewhere to operate in NA044. The map showed half a dozen island communities so I called up Air Labrador to find if any were served by the Twin Otters. My decision to go this year was wiser than I had realised as the fishing moratorium had already caused the abandonment of all but one hamlet - that of Black Tickle on the Island of Ponds. Air Labrador still flew in Monday to Friday mornings going southbound from Goose Bay and later each day returning northbound from St Anthony in Newfoundland. There was no hotel on the island and to my surprise



there was no RCMP office listed in the phone book. Air Labrador came to the rescue with the number of their agent, Christine Holwell, and she generously agreed to put me up for a couple of nights.

All was now set and I decided to fit in a stop at Mary's Harbour for a possible excursion to the abandoned island hamlet of Battle Harbour where the Grenfell medical mission had established its hospital at the turn of the century. The Grenfell story is worth an article on its own - but to explain briefly, a young English doctor/missionary Wilfred Grenfell visited the Labrador coast at the end of the 19th century and was so horrified at the poverty and disease he found amongst the natives and European settlers that he devoted his life to improving the situation. To this day the Grenfell hospital and clinics represent the majority of Labrador's health-care assets. My routing via direct flights from Heathrow to St Johns also gave me the opportunity of a short side-trip to St Pierre and Miquelon - a place I had long been curious about.

#### **NA-044**

The flight to St Johns was pleasantly short at around four and a half hours and I had the opportunity to meet up with Laurie VO1XC (one of the IOTA enthusiasts) and Rick VO1SA. The following day I hit the first obstacle - my flight to St Anthony was OK but the connecting flight to Mary's Harbour was on a "weather hold". I elected to press on and hope for the best but when we landed in a very wet and windy St Anthony it was confirmed that the Twin Otter had stayed in its hangar at Goose Bay. Making the best of it I rented a car and set off to see the local sights. The foremost attraction is the only confirmed Viking site west of Greenland at L'Anse aux Meadows where the Canadian park service has created a visitor centre and reconstructed a number of Viking buildings. The location is stunning in a small bay at the

northernmost tip of Newfoundland facing the straits of Belle Ile but in late June there were still quite a few icebergs out at sea and the strong wind was bitterly cold. I moved on quickly to the other attraction - the Grenfell House Museum in St Anthony where Sir Wilfred (as he became) had based himself in later years. After that there was nothing to do but harass the Air Labrador people whose Twin Otter was disinclined to risk the allegedly dangerous winds even though a smaller plane operated by Provincial Airways had been shuttling backwards and forwards to Mary's Harbour all day. By late afternoon I was resigned to another night in St Anthony and set off for the 60kms back into town. (The airport location, I was told, was a political compromise - equally distant from all the local communities!)

There was a TA33 beam in town so I followed the coax and knocked on the door of Carl, VO1UL, for a short chat. Hopefully he will now be joining the IOTA hunters! Back to the hotel where I met another stranded traveller - Lewis Cadwell, a fisherman from Charlottetown, one of the larger communities on the southern Labrador. Lewis was returning home after a winter "upgrading" - upgrading himself he explained in response to my rather naive question. I had been thinking more along the lines of upgrading a PC! With no fish for them to catch, the Canadian government has a number of adult education programmes targeted on fishermen who originally left school early. Lewis was returning for some salmon and trout fishing but was keen to develop the tourist business. He is willing to take small groups out to the abandoned island communities, combining a historical experience with some good river fishing. I have his address if anyone is interested. We finally got away from St Anthony on Wednesday the 21st June but my schedule called for me to go straight on to my main

destination Black Tickle. Mary's Harbour will have to wait for another trip.

My fellow passengers were fishermen heading back for the crab and shellfish season and a number of women looking for work in the processing plants. One old-timer whose skin was black with dirt looked as though he would be heading straight back to a 19th century hovel. The flight was fascinating as we hopped from hamlet to hamlet at less than 1000 feet. My neighbour was a young lad heading to Cartwright in search of labouring work who knew every inch of the coast and pointed out all the settlements. His own home was out in the wilds some 30 miles from the nearest airstrip. Incredibly we flew over island after island with abandoned wharves, houses, and boats - some with facilities newly constructed only months before the fishing moratorium was imposed. At 2030 local time we landed at Black Tickle where John Holwell, Christine's husband, met me at the little airstrip. Christine was leaving on the same flight to visit their teenage daughter who had been med-evac'ed to Goose Bay with stomach pains the previous evening. [She made a full recovery] I was intrigued to see what this little place would be like. The tourist leaflets hardly mention Black Tickle at all and I could find just two references in the library; one book noted that it was the only Catholic community in Labrador and another said it had been founded by absconding British sailors in the mid-nineteenth century. Would everyone be scratching itchy blackfly bites? Or was there some other reason for the name? As we wound around the bay from the airstrip, the community came into view. Set around a narrow inlet tucked into the corner of a broad bay there were thirty or forty houses, a couple of general stores - one somewhat optimistically open for "take-out" pizzas and hamburgers for the approximately 200 inhabitants - and a modern quay newly built for the abandoned fishing fleet. Further

exploration would have to wait until morning as it was already 0000z and I needed to get on the air. John helped me assemble the Butternut and I was soon QRV with good propagation to Europe and North America. I worked the pile-up for a few hours but gradually became aware of an increasing problem; an intermittent S9 noise was becoming more and more continuous. John's CB was also picking up the noise and it had all the characteristics of an overhead power line arcing in the damp evening air. I worked a few people in the gaps between noise bursts, but by about 0400z it was just about continuous and I went QRT.

The following morning was bright and sunny but the noise would not stop. By mid-day there was nothing for it but to move QTH and I set off with Jordan, John's 9 year old son, as a guide to find somewhere quieter. Right at the end of the village we found a house tucked behind a rocky bluff and well screened from the power lines. Knocking on the door I was just trying to work out how to explain what I wanted to do, when it was opened by another of my acquaintances from the weather delay in St Anthony.

I was quickly on the air again and while the noise was still there, it was down to S4, and I think I managed to work anyone who could copy me. The operation finished around 1900 as I had to be back at the airstrip for the 2045 flight to Goose Bay. There was quite a crowd gathering for the plane and I got talking to another of the fishermen-in-waiting who explained that he now spent his day glued to the CATV service. This I could believe as he had the sort of overhanging gut that could only appear on a couch potato on a diet of seal blubber! He displayed an encyclopaedic knowledge of English sport from soccer to darts and was clearly dismayed by my utter ignorance of these things. I eventually managed to get him talking about life in Labrador and learnt that the inhabitants of



Davis Inlet were viewed with considerable contempt by the other communities. "A disgrace to Labrador". "They have exactly the same conditions and subsidies as we do but their lives and their houses are a mess". "We say they have two types of kids up in Davis - leaded and unleaded!" Flying on to Goose Bay my neighbour was the co-owner of a new holiday lodge on an island near Cartwright. It was near the start of the season and he was flying up to get the place ready for the first group of tourists. His place is equipped with generators and I am sure would be an ideal location for future DXpeditions. Declining his offer of free accommodation for a few days in exchange for assistance with some of the chores I continued on to Goose. (I have his name and winter contact details in St Johns if anyone is interested)

## The New One

My flight to Hopedale on Friday was at the dreadful hour of 0630 but it meant I was at Hopedale Lodge for breakfast before 9. The Lodge proved to be quite a find and I cannot recommend it sufficiently highly. Run by local entrepreneur Fred Vincent and his wife with assistance from several Inuit staff its dining room and 14 bedrooms (with en-suite facilities) are clean, modern, and comfortable. I was the only guest on the Friday but a 20 strong local government committee flew in on Saturday and the Eskimo cook got into gear with some excellent meals. Fred had arranged for his Inuk assistant, Henry Boase, to ferry me in the hotel speedboat to and from Anniowaktook Island which lay about one km from the hotel. My general plan was to return each evening but I was concerned about working Jim Smith and the ZLs who would probably only have propagation around mid-night local time. Henry readily agreed to take me back to the island around midnight as long as there wasn't too much ice around and the night was reasonably

bright. (Labrador is no further north than London so even in late June it gets fairly dark) I was QRV by early afternoon and again had good pile-ups into Europe and North America. The weather seemed fine so I told Henry not to bother to erect the tent - I would sit under the canvas if it rained. My operating position was a rocky ledge about 10 feet above high-water level with the Butternut standing in a salt water pool. With no table or chair I just sat cross-legged on the ground; fine for about 30 minutes but excruciatingly uncomfortable thereafter! During the afternoon I heard occasional loud bangs in the distance which I attributed to sonic booms from low level military jets - one of the main complaints of the native people about Ottawa's administration. I was wrong however as I realised when I looked up and saw the mother of all thunderstorms heading rapidly in my direction. I must have missed the static crashes through concentrating on the pile-up. The rig was just under cover when the storm arrived and I had second thoughts about sitting under a canvas, on wet rock, next to a vertical metal rod! Retreating to a crack in the cliff I decided to wait it out - but fortunately the centre passed by a couple of miles away and I was back on the air after about 40 minutes.

Henry picked me up at 1900 and we went back to the Lodge for a meal and a few beers with the local Eskimo. As always I was curious about the meaning of the local names and asked them the meaning of "Anniowaktook". Nobody seemed to know "We all just calls it Big Island" was the common response - but they eventually found an old timer who explained that "Anniowaktook" is Inuktitut for..... "Big Island"! Back on the rock at 2330 local the bands were lively and we soon worked VK9NS and ZL1ARY but Dusty, ZL2VS, could not copy me on SSB and I had left the paddles behind so couldn't try CW. The cold was getting to both of us, the pack ice was drifting in, and it was darker than Henry



would have liked so we had to go QRT though I promised to try again on Sunday evening. I expected to be QRT from around mid-day Saturday to mid-day Sunday to avoid QRM from the North American field day, so returned on Saturday for the morning only. My 24 hour break would be used for visiting the local community and, in particular, looking over their treasure - a well preserved group of substantial wooden buildings erected by Moravian missionaries in 1782 with pre-cut parts shipped from Europe. These are believed to be the oldest wooden buildings in North America and are full of tools and artefacts from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

I was back on Sunday to work the Europeans on their return from the convention at Friedrichshafen. Again I went QRT in the early evening and returned at 2330 - but this time the bands were dead and I couldn't raise anyone on phone or CW. We dismantled the Butternut in the dark as I was leaving on the early flight Monday morning and set off back to the Lodge.

By now I was beginning to feel more than my age. Each trip to the island started with hauling a wooden dory across the rocks and into the water, rowing out to the speedboat, clambering in with all the gear, and then struggling with slimy mooring ropes... and then repeating the whole process on return. I needed a rest!

## **FP/G3ZAY**

The final stop was to be St Pierre and Miquelon; a short plane ride from St Johns. Bruno, F5JYD, had been QRV in the spring from the Hotel Robert but they were fully booked during my planned visit so I settled on a B&B run by a Madame Helene Marcel. I did not originally plan to operate at all as FP is not very rare but I did have some sked requests from JA friends so I agreed to take the rig and see what I could do. Madame Helene turned out to have a very suitable

garden for the Butternut and was quite happy for me to operate. As she put it "I'm expecting 18 girl guides over the next few days. I've got to move everything breakable into the attic. And I'm also expecting two conjurors who're bringing a cage-full of white birds. What difference can a crazy radio ham make?" Unfortunately the JA skeds were not a success. I could hear them at S1 but they were hearing nothing at all from me. A 400 foot hill immediately to the north of the town is a significant obstruction and I gather FP is in consequence still much needed in Japan. They will probably have to wait for a group to go to Miquelon the larger but less populated island in the group. So that was VE in 1995 - around 1700 QSOs in total from Labrador and a handful from FP. Not a lot, but we don't want to make IOTA too easy do we?!

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## **STOCHASTIC RESONANCE**

***Or how you can be more  
readable when you're buried in  
noise.***

According to Scientific American (Aug 1995) weak signal detection in non-linear systems (like the human ear) can be enhanced if extra noise is added. They even publish details of an experimental demonstration - a weak musical signal is inaudible until white noise is injected to the amplifier. The theory seems to be that if a detector has a minimum detection threshold and an incoming signal is below it, the addition of extra noise will trip the detector more frequently when the incoming signal is present than when it is not. So it seems the microphone blower on a DX frequency may be doing us all a favour. And he will of course have a defence to any charges of causing interference - he was just enhancing stochastic resonance. But will the QSO be good for DXCC or IOTA if you needed a third party to help out? We must have a code of practice!



## ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER

This Newsletter depends for its success on the availability of input from members. Input may take the form of news items, letters, articles on HF operating, DXpedition reports, contesting, equipment reviews etc. In general, most items of HF content are welcome.

I am happy to receive articles in any form. However, it is obviously much less work for me if I don't have to type the article up, and, for that reason prefer articles to be submitted in electronic form, preferably produced using a modern word processor. The Newsletter is produced using Word For Windows 6.0, which can accept most current WP file formats, but *please always also include on disk a plain text version of the file, and also supply hard copy*, just in case something goes wrong with the translation, as it often does with tabular information, or the disk can't be read, which sometimes happens either because it gets corrupted it the post, or the alignment of the disk drives in the originating machine is wildly out - it has been known to happen!

For those using Word 6 for the production of articles, I can supply a template which will enable the article to be produced directly in the Newsletter format - please get in touch if you'd like a copy.

Small items may be submitted via PacketCluster, but my link to the system is sometimes a little tenuous, so this is not always a reliable method. Alternatively use email - my address is [alanj@pires.co.uk](mailto:alanj@pires.co.uk).

If you don't have access to a PC, then, of course, I would still like to receive articles, and these should preferably be typewritten, although clear hand-written items are always acceptable. These may be Faxed to me at 01767 677 913 or mailed to the address on

the front cover.

The deadline for submitting articles is the seventh of the month prior to the month of publication, although I can take late news and small items up to about two weeks later. Please do try to let me have submissions by the deadline, as production of the Newsletter is quite time consuming, and has to be fitted in around other things such as work, family, and other leisure activities!

Please keep the input coming!

73 Alan Jubb, G3PMR  
Editor, CDXC Newsletter

## IARU REGION 1 PRESIDENT *Tnx CQ DL*

The Executive Committee of IARU Region 1 has elected John Bazley, G3HCT, as Interim President of IARU Common-Licence-Group until the next AGM in 1996. He succeeds Jaap Dijkshoorn, PA0TO, who became a silent key earlier this year. (*Ed: John is also a 'DXC' member*).

## THAT's ALL FOR THIS TIME

Well, that's it for this time. There's plenty coming up on the DX/contest front, with the Windsor/Bologna conventions, (as well as the Seanet Convention in Thailand, which Andy, G4ZVJ is planning to attend - hopefully Andy will provide a write up for the Newsletter), the XR0Y/XR0Z and Heard Island DXpeditions, and the CQWW SSB and CW contests.

If any CDXC member is going to the Beijing DX Convention, please let me have a brief (or not so brief!) report on the proceedings.

73 and see you at Windsor.

Alan Jubb, G3PMR



## Pssst !!!

### How about a secret weapon for your station ??

Vine is proud to introduce the **DUNESTAR** WX0B Stack-Match.

This unit is an UN-UN or unbalanced to unbalanced transmission line transformer which has relays to switch in up to three 50Ω antennas. The output is selected to match lower impedances presented by more than one 50Ω antenna. Output is "Antenna 1", "2", "3", "1+2", "2+3", "All 3", "1+3"

Due to these characteristics you can

- *Feed up to three tribanders, or monobanders (quads or yagis).*
- *Feed up to three verticals in phase (Broadside array)*
- *Feed combinations, e.g. 20m dipole + tribander + vertical. Change and combine all three. Great in contests and for searching the bands.*

Phone for a copy of renowned contester N5RZ's enthusiastic review of the SM-03, used with two TH6's. This is what Ralph said -

- *Essentially no change in SWR*
- *20m - both antennas always better than either.....*
- *15m - Stacking gain into EU .....is tremendous - many times the difference between solid copy and no copy at all.*
- *10M - SWR good - no openings to establish gain*
- *This is probably the best money I have spent for a long time.*

**Special introductory offer** - Stack Match plus shack switching unit **£169** (Usually £199) - including VAT and post and packing.

We also have our usual lines - **Force 12 tribanders** "Cracked all pileups first call" (GW5LP/P in IOTA contest). **Gem Quads** ("Ever so pleased" - (G4DYO). **KLM yagis** - "Tremendous - quote me anytime" - (G3XAQ).

For product reviews, just to chat, or maybe even to buy something (!) please ring, fax or Email us today. We've just been appointed HyGain agents - so watch this space !!

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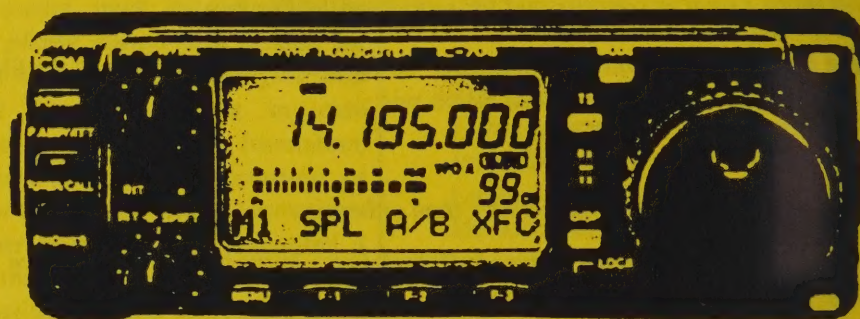


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